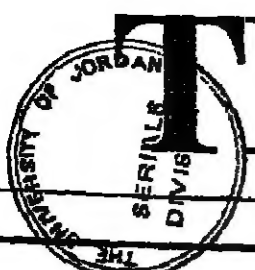


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THE TIMES

مكتبة الأصل

No 63,880

TUESDAY DECEMBER 4 1990

Overseas Edition

35p

Europe refuses to budge on subsidies

Gatt talks head for disaster amid farm riots

FROM PETER GUILFORD AND MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

ATTEMPTS to create a global free trade regime were heading for disaster last night as Europe clashed with the rest of the world over its refusal to make deeper cuts in farm subsidies.

The conflict split on to the streets of Brussels yesterday when more than 30,000 farmers demanded that their subsidies be protected. Paramilitary police fired tear gas and water cannon to control the demonstrators after they tore out trees and traffic signs, and burned tyres.

More than a hundred countries are aiming to adopt a strategy to free commerce for the next century within five years, after four years of negotiations. But the process is stumbling over demands by America and other nations that European farm subsidies be cut by between 75 and 90 per cent. The community is offering only a fraction of those cuts. The 14-nation Cairns group, led by Australia, threatened to leave the talks today if the community did not shift its stance.

Peter Lilley, the trade and industry secretary, said that "a



Carla Hills: "Time for rhetoric has passed"

crisis was brewing" at the talks. Britain's dependence on trade put it among those nations most perilously exposed to global recession if the talks broke down. Failure would throw the world back into protectionism and "beggar-my-neighbour" policies. Arthur Dunkel, director-general of Gatt (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) said the so-called Uruguay round of talks had only one week to achieve results. "This leaves us with no option but to negotiate, negotiate and negotiate and waste no time in political shadow boxing or mutual recrimination."

Carla Hills, the American trade representative, said there was a danger of a slide towards protectionism and political instability if the talks failed. "The fate of the round hangs in the balance. This is the final, I repeat the final, week of the Uruguay round. There will be no extension. The time for rhetoric has passed. Now is the time for straight talk and bottom lines." Her remarks destroyed any hopes that the Gatt talks could be delayed until February, giving America just enough time to push the results through Congress on the "fast track" by March 1.

Mrs Hills systematically dismissed crucial elements of the EC's complex reform package, describing the agriculture deadlock as the only obstacle to a worldwide economic renaissance. She put the prize for success at more than \$4,000 billion in the 1990s. If successful, the agreement would bring textiles, farming, copyright and investment rules under the control of a single free trade regime. Most delegates want one global package or nothing, so the farm dispute could scupper the entire deal. The bitterness is focused on

the community's refusal to make specific cuts to its export subsidies. The Americans want them cut by 90 per cent, and all other support reduced by three-quarters. Brussels has offered to cut internal support by 30 per cent from 1986 levels, but refuses to commit itself to explicit cuts in export subsidies or to better access to its market, saying these would flow from its offer.

The European agriculture commissioner Ray MacSharry did not appear to have any room to negotiate. He said yesterday: "The only flexibility I have is to explain in detail the impact which reductions in internal support will have on export subsidies and market access." Washington dismissed that as posturing, while Australia accused Mr MacSharry of poor arithmetic. Richard Crowder, the American under-secretary for agriculture, added: "We don't need more explanations. We understand the policies. We need real movement."

Outside the European Commission building, Brussels was under siege yesterday. Traffic was at a standstill. Metro stations were sealed and armoured troop carriers and police buses dominated the streets in an attempt to keep the demonstrating farmers away from the delegates.

Brandishing pitchforks and blowing whistles, the farmers surged down streets only to be halted outside the deserted European Parliament. The crowd, some dressed in national dress, others in animal masks, then moved to a park near by for a rally denouncing the Gatt talks. Chris French of Britain said: "It's an expression of farmers' concern that we will not be sold down the river."

Facing disaster, page 5
Leading article, page 17



Face of rebellion: a rebel soldier yesterday guarding the entrance to the armed forces headquarters in Buenos Aires after a dawn mutiny

Kinnock fights for political initiative

By PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEIL Kinnock yesterday began a concerted campaign to regain the political initiative after the election of John Major and declared that he would lead Labour into government.

The Labour leader dismissed speculation over his own position, as absurd as he launched his party's plans for improving school standards, and Roy Hattersley outlined its new policy on Europe, referring to the "substantial advantages" of entry into monetary union.

Labour's attempt to move on to the offensive with detailed expositions of its own approach and claims that Mr Major is maintaining Thatcherite policies has been hindered by questions over Mr Kinnock's leadership, intensified by a weekend poll suggesting that the party might do better if he stepped down. In his first remarks about the speculation, Mr Kinnock said that the only valid opinions were those of his colleagues. "With one voice, they have shown that the whole thesis put forward is absurd. That is certainly my view."

"The only joy I take from all this is the fact that, with such a spread of confidence among my colleagues, it removes any worry I might have had about what might be called the 'number 11 bus problem'. Consequently, not only will Labour be well led to victory and into government by me but, for decades after that, there are clearly large supplies of people of high quality who can succeed me when eventually I decide to depart the position."

At the education launch, John Cunningham, Labour's campaign co-ordinator, said talk of Mr Kinnock standing down was "absolute utter nonsense". Sitting next to Mr Kinnock, he said: "Where does all this nonsense come from? Labour has had an outstanding period of regeneration and recovery under the leadership of Neil Kinnock which culminated in

Continued on page 24, col 6

BA plans joint airline with base in Berlin

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Airways is recruiting pilots from throughout Europe to form crews for a new airline based in Berlin. The airline, in which BA will have a 49 per cent stake, could become one of the biggest and most powerful in the world, providing a network of services linking cities in East and West Europe with other continents.

It is hoped that the airline - for which no name has yet been chosen - will be operational by the spring and provide direct competition with Lufthansa, while turning Berlin into a formidable "hub" airport. An advertisement for crew is to appear in tomorrow's edition of *Flight International* and calls for both pilots and co-pilots with licences which are "acceptable to the German authorities" to write to a box number. No mention is made of BA in the advertisement but an airline spokesman last night confirmed that it had placed the advertisement.

The airline has been working on ways of maintaining a base in Berlin since unification led to foreign carriers effectively being ordered out by 1993. At present BA has a fleet of nine Boeing 737s and

British Aerospace ATPs based permanently in Berlin, providing 86 daily flights to nine German cities.

Under the new rules BA would have to reduce the number of seats it provides by 20 per cent in April and then make cuts of 10 per cent every six months beyond that. In talks with German investors, however, BA has received enthusiastic backing for a new airline which would be 51 per cent owned by Germans but operated by BA.

British Airways involvement in Berlin began during the airlift when the allied powers were asked to keep the city supplied in the face of East German and Soviet land blockades. When the Berlin wall collapsed Pan Am, which had provided the bulk of services to Berlin, sold out its interest to Lufthansa which is back at Tegel airport for the first time since the second world war.

Economists and aviation experts now predict a boom in air links within the new Germany and to cities in the Eastern block as well as an increased demand for long-haul services to both America and the Far East, and BA was determined to build on its

long experience. The aircraft in its fleet will be registered in Germany and licences will be granted by the German authorities before the planned liberalisation of all European air services in 1993. From then on, under existing proposals, any airline will be free to fly where it likes within the Community.

The new airline is part of BA's strategy of developing hubs in central Europe. One such proposal - to take a stake in Sabena World Airways alongside KLM and Sabena - is now being held up in Brussels because of objections to the creation of a near monopoly at Brussels and the nearness of other key international airports.

British Airways is finalising plans for a new airline operating from Moscow to be called Air Russia which it hopes to form jointly with Aeroflot. The Berlin-based airline would be even bigger, however, and could be ready within months. Some believe it could grow rapidly to become almost as big and powerful as BA is today within the next 15 years, leading to a significant increase on the 1,000 staff employed by BA in Berlin.

Artillery attack on Argentine rebels

FROM MICHAEL SOLTYS
IN BUENOS AIRES

PRESIDENT Menem of Argentina ordered an artillery barrage yesterday on rebel troops who seized a suburban Buenos Aires infantry garrison in a dawn mutiny in which three soldiers died. Field guns opened fire at the Patricios garrison two miles from the city centre. The rebels fired back with mortars.

Army headquarters in the centre of Buenos Aires, the nearby coastguard headquarters and a tank factory were also in rebel hands. The rebels said they recognised President Menem as commander-in-chief but demanded the appointment as army chief of a retired colonel, Mohamed Ali Seineldin, a commando officer and self-styled Falklands war hero, who led a rebellion against President Alfonsin's government in December 1988.

The rebels struck two days before President Bush's visit to Buenos Aires, seriously embarrassing President Menem, who declared a state of siege in the capital.

Bush visit, page 15

Police blamed for shooting

A judge yesterday called for an enquiry into the deliberate suppression by West Midlands police of a highly critical report on the shooting by police ten years ago of Gail Kinnich, a pregnant 16-year-old girl, who was being used as a shield by her boyfriend. He awarded her mother £8,155 damages. Page 3

Carling's date



Will Carling, the England captain, will meet officials of the Rugby Football Union today to answer accusations that he contravened amateur regulations. Page 42

Estate misery

Large post-war council housing estates have become centres of deprivation where the poorest 20 per cent live in worse conditions than those in the inner cities. Page 2

City ambition

Hull, Britain's only city which runs its own telephone service, is anxious to take charge of all services now controlled by Humberside. Page 5

Russia for sale

The Russian Federation parliament overcame bitter opposition to vote for the principle of private ownership of land. Page 14

Curfew imposed

A curfew was imposed on several Transvaal townships yesterday after battles between rival factions killed at least 64 people. Page 15

Credit record

Consumers borrowed a record £423 billion on credit in October, casting doubt on evidence that the government's counter-inflationary squeeze has reined back spending. Page 25

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French minister gives hint of visit to Iraq

By MICHAEL KNIFE and SUSAN ELLICOTT

ROLAND Dumas, the French foreign minister, said yesterday that he did not rule out a visit to Iraq in the wake of the planned visit by James Baker, American secretary of state, later this month. His words raised speculation that other western ministers might follow in Mr Baker's footsteps, if only to reinforce the international community's determination to force President Saddam Hussein to withdraw his forces from Kuwait.

An additional benefit would be to placate their own anti-war factions at home. In the

House of Commons, however, Douglas Hogg, minister of state at the Foreign Office, said there were no plans for Douglas Hogg, the foreign secretary, to go to Iraq.

Richard Cheney, the American defence secretary, said in Washington that the administration was prepared to appeal to its anti-Iraq allies to increase contributions towards the costs of the Gulf operation and helping countries hit hard by higher oil prices and sanctions.

Clark's denial, page 2
Hawks' fears, page 12

Earthquake fever hits seven on Richter scale

FROM CHARLES BREMMER
IN NEW YORK

THOUSANDS of people across America's Midwest have braved freezing weather to stay outside in case the ground opens beneath them, the mighty Mississippi reverses its flow and Elvis is rocked in his grave.

The source of the biggest panic in memory to strike the normally sober heartland of America is a prediction by Iben Browning, a self-taught climatologist and business consultant, that the region would witness a cataclysmic earthquake either yesterday or today.

The scorn of geologists and the mockery of the rest of the country has not been enough to deter residents, from Little Rock, Arkansas, to Chicago, Illinois, from taking precautions. Schools and offices across

Missouri and Kentucky have closed. In Memphis, Tennessee, corporations have told employees to stay home. Women and children have been sent away and some have set up tents in cotton fields. Even in Chicago, schools have been advising children how to shelter under desks.

The epicentre of the quake fever is the small Missouri town of New Madrid, which lies on a fault line that produced the most powerful earthquake in American history in 1811. According to legend that tremor, estimated at eight on the Richter scale, reversed the Missouri and Mississippi rivers.

The authorities have been deluged with calls from fearful citizens reporting mysterious bubbling along the rivers, but they insist the waterways are doing nothing strange. Emergency equipment has been shipped in to

hospitals, the Civil Defence has set up a control centre and the National Guard is on the alert.

Geologists have long predicted tremors along the 120-mile New Madrid fault, but all scoffed at Mr Browning's forecast. However, Mr Browning, who claims to have predicted last year's San Francisco earthquake and the 1980 eruption of Mount St Helens volcano in Washington state, insisted that New Madrid was in for an earthquake measuring at least seven on the Richter scale. He has based his prediction in part on unusually strong tidal forces, which reached a 60-year peak early yesterday morning.

The town of 3,000 people, in the heart of the cotton-picking district, adopted something of a carnival atmosphere as reporters, preachers, tourists and rock bands flooded its

streets waiting for the cataclysm. But the moment of greatest tidal forces passed without a tremor. Mr Browning reminded sceptics that today was also a high risk day.

The earthquake madness has also furnished fuel for the millennium-waiters. End-of-the-world predictions, plentiful in the 1790s and 1890s, are expected to multiply as the third millennium approaches.

In nearby Memphis Elvis Presley fans are standing guard to help preserve the late singer's home and burial site. "If the earth opens up I can't wait to see if Elvis is really in that grave," said one nightclub owner.

Blasla Streicher, a preacher from Cincinnati, noted that he appeared to arrive just in time to save the town's soul. "The entire town needed to repent its sins, and fast" or God would destroy the city in 40 days.

Tory storm over racist attack

By PETER VICTOR

A POLITICAL storm blew up last night after John Taylor, the barrister widely tipped to become the first black Conservative MP, was described by a fellow party member as a "bloody nigger". The statement drew condemnation from Conservative MPs.

The row began yesterday following Mr Taylor's selection as prospective parliamentary candidate for Cheltenham on Saturday. William Galbraith, aged 54, who on Saturday seconded a motion calling for Mr Taylor's adoption to be delayed, said yesterday: "I don't really think we should give in to a bloody nigger even though Central Office have foisted him upon us. We are here to repel the invader."

Norman Tebbit angrily con-

demned Mr Galbraith's attack on Mr Taylor and described it as "ignominious". He dismissed the outburst as the rantings of a man "who holds no position or power" within the party and has written to Mr Taylor offering his support.

Mr Taylor said he would not be taking any action over Mr Galbraith's remarks. "I just feel very sorry for this man," he said. "It is not worth taking any action over his comments. I have got a job of work to do in Cheltenham and I want to get on with it."

The prime minister yesterday gave his full backing to Mr Taylor (Nicholas Wood writes). Government sources said that John Major welcomed Mr Taylor's candidacy.

Parliament, politics, page 6

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Poorest left behind in worst council housing, study says

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

LARGE post-war council housing estates have become centres of deprivation where the poorest 20 per cent of the population live in conditions that are worse than the inner cities, according to a report published yesterday.

A Glasgow university team, led by Professor Duncan McLennan, found that during the past decade those who could afford to move out of council estates had done so, leaving the poorest people behind.

The study, *Paying for Britain's Housing*, found that almost three quarters of council tenants relied solely on state benefits for their income. It blamed poverty traps created by housing benefit and social security regulations for preventing thousands of the poorest people from breaking out of what Professor McLennan described as "the grimness of housing conditions".

He said: "The Thatcher decade saw those who could get out of the social housing sector and into owner-occupation. The lowest income households now live in the worst housing in the worst neighbourhoods. Those are not in the inner cities but in the large post-war council housing estates, five to eight miles from city centres.

"We are not just talking about the peripheral estates of Glasgow. This type of housing can be found in Birmingham, Sheffield and Newcastle. It is the more isolated peripheral estates that now show the worst housing problems."

Professor McLennan said that 20 per cent of the population had become so detached in income terms from the wealth of the nation that it was almost impossible for them to catch up with the rest of society. While unemployment had played an important part in causing deprivation on council estates, most of those claiming benefit were disabled, long-term sick elderly or single parents. "So even if the economy picks up it will by no means resolve the problems that these estates face."

Seventy per cent of council tenants aged under 24 were on welfare benefit, a proportion which fell to 57 per cent of those aged between 25 and 44 and 51 per cent of those aged 45 to 59. Among pensioners 79 per cent of council tenants relied on benefits compared to

57 per cent of owner-occupiers and 66 per cent of private sector tenants.

Professor McLennan said: "I cannot stress enough the extent to which there is benefit dependence among those who live in the social rented sector."

The survey found that pensioners in council housing had virtually no assets having spent all their savings, if they had any, before they retired. By contrast owner-occupiers enjoyed the benefits of what Professor McLennan described as a "virtuous triangle" of the value of their homes, savings and the fact that most had paid off their mortgages.

The survey showed that the lowest level of dependence on benefits was in Bristol (32 per cent of all households), London (33 per cent) and Birmingham (40 per cent) while in Glasgow it was 51 per cent and in Newcastle upon Tyne and Sheffield 45 per cent.

When it came to breaking out of dependency on the state Professor McLennan said the worst difficulties were faced by families with a combined income between £5,200 and £7,800 who lost 86p in benefit

for every extra £1 they earned. "Instead of creating opportunities for those who want to get out we have created penalties for those who try to climb out of the poverty trap," Professor McLennan said. "If John Major's vision of an opportunity society is to become a reality we are going to have to address these problems."

Not all of the poor were tenants. In Bristol, half of those with incomes below £5,200 were owner-occupiers, many of them elderly. Overall 10 per cent of owner-occupiers had problems paying their mortgages. While high interest rates played a significant part a lot of those with repayment problems had suffered from other difficulties such as redundancy.

Summing up his findings Professor McLennan said: "It is misleading to say there is a housing crisis in Britain. The vast majority of the people in our survey were convinced that they lived in the best part of town. But there are major localised difficulties."

Paying for Britain's Housing (Joseph Rowntree Foundation, £9.50)

Type of accommodation	Bristol	Glasgow	London	Newcastle	Sheffield
Owner	64.0	39.5	57.5	49.6	54.1
Local Authority	16.1	54.4	25.7	35.2	32.2
Housing Assoc	3.7	2.9	4.9	7.0	4.2
Private rent	15.4	3.1	11.3	7.2	6.9
Lodger/board	0.7	0.1	0.7	0.9	0.6

Main source* of income by tenure	Owner	Council tenants	Association tenants	Private tenants
Pay	78%	28%	37%	58%
Benefits	21	73	62	40
Interest	1	0	1	2
Occupational pension	1	0	0	1
Other	1	0	0	1

*Main source is defined as constituting more than half of the combined incomes of respondents and spouses (where present)

BBC wins on Tory coverage

By MELINDA WHITSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

RECORD numbers of viewers turned to BBC television for news in the three weeks that led to the resignation of Margaret Thatcher and the election of John Major as prime minister, ratings figures show.

The BBC was consistently ahead of Independent Television News from the resignation of Sir Geoffrey Howe,

with *The Nine O'Clock News* attracting 11.1 million viewers compared to *News At Ten's* 5.4 million.

When Conservative MPs cast their votes in the first ballot, 12.2 million viewers tuned into the BBC's *Six O'Clock News*, against 6.9 million for ITN's *News At 5.40*. From 7pm onwards, the BBC's election special drew 9.3 million viewers compared to ITV's 5.9 million for a special edition of *This Week*.

On the night of Mrs Thatcher's resignation, *Question Time* attracted 7 million viewers - its biggest audience. *News At Ten* attracted 4.9 million viewers and *The Nine O'Clock News* 8.5 million.

The BBC's Sunday afternoon programme *On The Record*, in which Jonathan Dimbleby interviewed the candidates the weekend before the second ballot, attracted 2.8 million viewers, against 2.2 million for LWT's *Walden*.

The peaceful demonstration, in which flowers will be laid at the Faslane gates, follows the loss of four fishermen from the *Antares*, a local fishing boat, when the vessel was dragged underwater by HMS Trenchant, a hunter-killer submarine, off the Isle of Arran last week.

West coast fishermen and their families are growing increasingly angry over the government's refusal to suspend submarine activities pending the introduction of safety measures that would protect fishing boats.

Yesterday, two fishing boats surveyed the Gare Loch, took depth and checked shore-to-shore distances in preparation for a blockade, should the meeting with Mr Hamilton prove fruitless.

Gare Loch readies for action

By KERRY GILL

HUNDREDS of wives, mothers and daughters of Scottish fishermen will gather outside the Royal Navy's submarine base at Faslane, on the Gare Loch, tomorrow, while members of the Clyde Fishermen's Association meet Archie Hamilton, the armed forces minister, in London.

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Minister denies role in Iraq deal

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ALAN Clark yesterday rejected newspaper claims that he helped British firms circumvent an arms embargo on Iraq when he was at the trade department nearly three years ago.

The denial by Mr Clark, now a defence minister, was relayed to the Commons by Timothy Sainsbury, the minister for trade, with Labour backbenchers calling for Mr Clark's resignation.

The affair arises from the minute of a meeting Mr Clark had with the Machine Tool Trades Association at the trade and industry department in January 1988. According to the association's record, Mr Clark advised manufacturers to emphasise the "peaceful" applications of their machinery, which was allegedly also capable of making artillery shells, when seeking export licences.

Mr Sainsbury accepted that machine tools could be put to civil or military use. He also confirmed that Mr Clark had seen the association. He said the meeting had been arranged to discuss the application of government guidelines forbidding the export to Iraq of

lethal equipment or equipment that could prolong the war with Iraq.

"Mr Clark strongly denies the interpretation put on the remarks alleged to have been made by him in *The Sunday Times* article. I will not comment on the record of the meeting kept by the MTTA, which was not sent to my department at the time, as I am advised that to do so might prejudice possible proceedings."

Greville Janner, Labour MP for Leicester West, said that licences had been wrongly granted, either deliberately or negligently, and Mr Clark should resign. Martin O'Neill, Labour's defence spokesman, said that until they were told whether the DTI version of the discussion differed from that of the association, they would continue to pursue the matter. Conservative MPs accused Labour of generating a synthetic row.

Charles Kennedy, president of the Liberal Democrats, said the minister's statement was calculated to obscure, confuse and cloud the issues. He demanded the fullest possible disclosure of the facts.

Kasparov searches for winning way out of a chess marathon

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

GARY Kasparov, the world champion, postponed yesterday's 17th game against Anatoly Karpov in the world championship in Lyons, France, to devote the day to a search for a win in the 16th game, started on Saturday and adjourned on Sunday night after 88 moves.

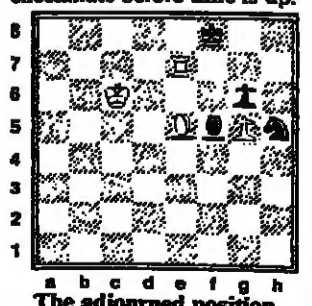
In the adjourned position Kasparov has the advantage of rook against knight, but Karpov has set up a fortress which it may be impossible to breach. The game has already lasted 11 hours and Kasparov has shown every sign of continuing the battle by sealing his 89th move. The game resumes today.

The record for the longest world championship game was between Korchnoi and Karpov, game five, in the Philippines in 1978, which ended in a draw by stalemate on move 124. The previous record was in the 20th game of the Tal-Borjinnik match in Moscow in 1961 which was drawn after 121 moves.

If Kasparov is to win the 16th game he must infiltrate with his king to the d8 square. That sounds simple, but the configuration of the pieces makes it extraordinarily difficult. Boris Spassky the former world champion, says that Kasparov (white) should win and that a computer could probably find the correct solution.

Kasparov has two pitfalls to avoid. First, if the same position occurs on the board three times the game is an automatic draw, as it is if a game continues for 50 moves beyond the last capture or pawn move. The last capture in this game was on move 60, but the last pawn move was

move 64. Having played his sealed move, Kasparov has a further 25 moves before the 50-move guideline. He must find a way to move a pawn, capture a piece, or deliver a forced checkmate before time is up.



The adjourned position

Prisoners return to April riot jail

By RONALD FAUX

THE first prisoners to be admitted to Strangeways, Manchester, since the riots of last April arrived yesterday.

Over the next two weeks 192 men will be returned from the temporary prisons set up in cells at police stations throughout the north. The men will move into K wing at Strangeways, one of the least damaged areas, which also contains the prison hospital.

The Home Office said that the admissions would help to relieve pressure on the emergency prisons. It would be three years before the £60 million repair and refurbishment of the prison was completed and about 1,000 inmates were contained there.

Strangeways would then have cells with integral sanitation, ending the ritual of "slopping out" and the overcrowding which is believed to have led to the violent riots. At that time, 1,649 prisoners were in Strangeways, many of them three to a cell and with a large number held on remand.

The improved Strangeways will have better security and more facilities for prison staff. The prison officers believe that new institutions coming into service and a policy of having fewer prisoners on remand will ease the pressure on prisons which led to the Manchester riots.

An investigation was launched yesterday into a five-hour riot on Sunday which left two prison officers injured at Norwich prison. The trouble began after staff foiled a mass breakout attempt.

Last month, Mr Gander described overcrowding the prison as "scandalous". Men were living three to a cell designed for one. The prison holds about 600 inmates.

Ripper's wife sues for libel

Sonia Sutcliffe, wife of the Yorkshire Ripper, launched a High Court libel action yesterday over a newspaper allegation that she had a holiday "fling" with a Greek travel representative who was the image of her husband.

Mrs Sutcliffe, aged 40, is suing News Group Newspapers, publishers of the *News of the World*, which carried the story of her holiday.

The jury was told that Mrs Sutcliffe, from Bradford, West Yorkshire, whose husband was convicted in 1981 of the murder of thirteen women, claimed the story was fabricated and denies the allegation. The case continues today.

UDM chief wins

Roy Lytch yesterday held on to his position as president of the Nottingham-based Union of Democratic Mineworkers. In a low poll, he received 2,323 votes to defeat his rival and deputy, Neil Greenacre, by a margin of 106 votes. Mr Lytch, who will retain his position for a further two years, welcomed his re-election but criticised his members for apathy in the postal ballot. The union has about 15,000 members.

Double killing

A man who killed his mother and grandmother and who was discovered by police "dancing to music and smiling" was ordered to be detained at a secure psychiatric unit by a Central Criminal Court judge yesterday. William Mulven, aged 20, of Maida Vale, northwest London, admitted manslaughter on grounds of diminished responsibility. The court was told that he had suspected schizophrenia.

Bounty trials

Special constables, who work as part-time volunteer police officers, are to be paid "bounties" under a two-year Home Office experiment designed to improve recruitment. Under the trial, special constables in London and two provincial forces could get £400-£900 a year, depending on their length of service and the rules of the scheme.

A Happy Christmas
to all our generous friends

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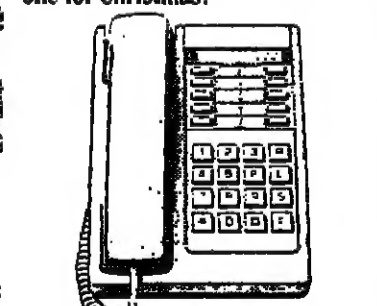
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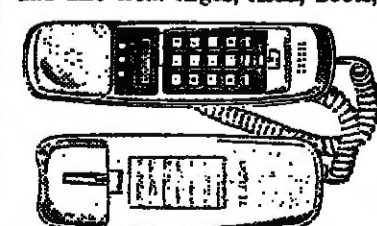
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Still life: art enthusiasts queuing at the Royal Academy, London, yesterday, for the Monet exhibition which closes on Sunday. By then, 500,000 people will have seen it, making it the most popular staged by the academy

Judge blames police for Gail Kinchin's death in gun siege

By CRAIG SETON

A JUDGE yesterday called for an enquiry into the deliberate suppression by West Midlands police of a highly critical report of the shooting by police ten years ago of a pregnant 16-year-old girl, who was being used as a shield by her boyfriend.

Mr Justice Hodgson, sitting at Birmingham High Court, yesterday awarded Gail Kinchin's mother, Josephine Wood, £8,155 damages against the force for its failures during the siege in which Miss Kinchin was shot, and castigated the force for suppressing a secret senior officer's report.

The judge's remarks will seriously embarrass West Midlands police, whose former serious crime squad is already being investigated by West Yorkshire police over allegations of fabricated evidence. Last night the force said it was considering whether to appeal.

The judge, who had adjourned judgment from October, said he could not accept that Tom Meffan, now assistant chief constable (crime) of the force, had forgotten about the report he had prepared as a detective chief superintendent, which came to light only

on the last day of the previous hearing. "Nor does it seem to me possible to avoid the conclusion that it was deliberately suppressed by someone of high rank in the Birmingham police force."

The judge said the document contained a number of highly relevant criticisms of the police handling of the incident in which the girl was hit three times by bullets fired by two police marksmen. She was being used as a shield on a darkened landing of a block of flats in Rubery, Birmingham, by David Paget, her boyfriend, who advanced on the



Gail Kinchin: pregnant when she was shot dead

officers firing from a shotgun. Mr Justice Hodgson, finding for her mother, said that if Mr Meffan's report had not been disclosed when it was "there was a real risk that an injustice would have been done". Mrs Wood, aged 49, of King's Heath, Birmingham, had sued West Midlands police for negligence over her daughter's death. The girl died from her injuries and Paget served a seven-year jail sentence for manslaughter.

Steven Jones, Mrs Wood's solicitor, said after yesterday's judgment that her civil action could have been settled in half the time if the secret report had been disclosed. "I think there may have been a cover-up," he said.

Mr Justice Hodgson said that Mr Meffan wrote a short supplementary report with a memorandum attached that was for internal digestion only. This was highly critical of police action. The judge said that, after cross examination, Mr Meffan had discovered overnight in the files the detailed five-and-a-half page report he had submitted to his chief constable in August 1980. "I am simply unable to accept that he had forgotten all about this."

The court had heard that Miss Kinchin, who was pregnant with Paget's baby, had been taken hostage by him in June 1980 after she had returned to live with her mother and stepfather. Paget, then 31, who had a criminal past, was armed with a shotgun and had hit Mrs Wood over the head and shot and injured her husband.

He took the girl to his flat in Rubery, Birmingham, and six off-duty policemen armed with revolvers took up positions. Two were on a darkened aisle outside the first floor flat when Paget emerged holding the girl in front of him. When he fired, the two officers fired back nine times. Miss Kinchin was hit three times.

Counsel for Mrs Wood had argued that the two officers should never have been in an unlit position from which there was no retreat and which left them little option over their course of action. The court was told that the police operation was negligent and led to Miss Kinchin's death.

In his findings, the judge said the failure to provide any lighting was the immediate cause of the girl's death. That it was a breach of police duty was, in effect, conceded by Mr Meffan in his report.

After yesterday's hearing, Mrs Wood said: "I am pleased the truth has come out after so long. I have said all along the command structure and not the two officers was to blame."

BT wants to ring the changes on phone number snobbery

By MARK DOWNING AND JULIAN ROLLINS

JUST as Londoners begin to come to terms with their division into 071s and 081s, British Telecom has proposed an innovation that could promote even finer social distinctions. However, this time it will not be only Londoners who are affected.

British Telecom wants to add one more digit to all telephone codes. This means that in London 071s and 081s would become 0171s and 0181s, and outside the capital Birmingham, for instance, would become 0121. When existing numbers run out, British Telecom could allocate 0271 and 0221 numbers, then 0371 and so on.

There's the rub. Those who have recently moved to an area - the new money - would then be distinguishable from residents of long standing, with 0171s looking down their noses at 0271s, who would in turn despise 0371s. This is no small matter

when estate agents already emphasise the difference between 071 and 081 as a selling point in the property market. 071 has come to represent the cosmopolitan, up-and-coming inner city, while 081 has been equated with anonymous suburbia.

A BT spokesman said that the country would run out of numbers by the end of the decade if the changes, which the company has recommended to the regulatory body Ofel should be made in 1995, were not implemented.

"This is because of the sheer demand for new lines, with 90 per cent of the population now having phones, people installing second lines and lines for faxes or burglar alarms," he said.

The proposals will be debated by the Telecommunications and Addressing Board, comprising representatives of British Telecom, Mercury, cellular phone and cable tele-

vision companies, but the final decision is Ofel's.

"We are hoping for a decision as soon as possible so that we can give our customers as much notice as possible and set the necessary engineering work in train," BT said.

The company had not wanted to move London subscribers on to the proposed new system when the 071 and 081 codes were introduced last May because it would have broken the national pattern of STD codes. Despite fears of chaos, the switch to the new codes was smooth.

BT does not yet know what the changes would cost. They will, however, be much easier to make on the new digital exchanges being phased in.

The spokesman said confusion to customers and costs involved in changing stationery and signs would be minimised by giving ample warning.

Arts campaigners want cash doubled

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN should spend twice as much as it does on the arts. To approach the subsidy levels of other European countries it should commit 1 per cent of all public expenditure to culture, the National Campaign for the Arts said yesterday.

Launching a new Manifesto for the Arts, Simon Mundy, director of the campaign, said: "Britain has been a late starter in the idea of public support for culture. There are large areas of the country where it is blindingly badly funded."

The manifesto calls for central and local government to increase total spending to £2 billion a year - almost double what is spent now - to create a cultural infrastructure equal to that in countries like France and Germany. Subsidised performing arts companies should have their deficits cleared and be protected against inflation.

One of the most controversial recommendations is for secondary levies on auction sales, second-hand book sales and video and audio tapes, with the income channelled back into the creative process. This could benefit publicly-funded museums and galleries by enhancing their purchase funds. "Playing the auction houses is a rich man's game which far outstrips the national institutions' ability to play," Mr Mundy said.

The manifesto calls for a European network for arts and heritage to co-ordinate the interests of artists and the groups representing them on a continental basis. It calls on the United Kingdom to rejoin the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.

A Manifesto for the Arts (National Campaign for the Arts, £5).

Ten-lane strategy to beat M25 jams

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

PLANS to increase parts of the M25 to ten lanes were unveiled yesterday by Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary.

The transport department is spending £1 billion on widening the 119-mile London orbital motorway to eight lanes over the next decade, and Mr Rifkind said yesterday that he had asked for plans to be drawn up to give the busiest sections five lanes on each carriageway. Consultants have warned Mr Rifkind that the existing plans would not meet future demand.

Mr Rifkind said that the busiest western stretch, south of the M4, which carries more than 140,000 vehicles a day, would be a priority area. Work may not start until the late 1990s and would have to be "economically and environmentally justified".

The initial widening to four lanes on each carriageway could be completed in about four years. Lighting will also be extended to the entire motorway route, apart from the Swanley to Sevenoaks section, at a cost of £20 million. A further £50 million is to be spent on electronic

message boards to advise of problems ahead. When congestion is at its worst, electronic detectors, costing £15 million, linked to traffic lights, will prevent vehicles from joining the motorway.

Mr Rifkind said in a parliamentary answer yesterday: "The plan contains a number of important traffic management measures to assist drivers and improve safety and traffic flows. I am sure it will be welcomed by many users of the M25 and by communities that have been relieved of traffic by the M25."

In the longer term, the department will press ahead with the studies of four orbital corridors outside the M25, as outlined in a white paper last year. Those include: the east-west corridor north of London between the M40 and the ports of Felixstowe and Harwich; the east-west corridor south of London; a further Thames crossing east of Dartford; and a route between the M3 and the M40. A circular route around London inside the M25 has been ruled out for now. Mr Rifkind's statement was welcomed by the British Road Federation.

Island's fire fighters could be cut off by bureaucracy

By DAVID YOUNG

HOLY Island, cut off from the mainland twice a day by the sea and for ten minutes every hour by British Rail, now faces having its voluntary fire service cut off by a tide of bureaucracy.

The 180 islanders are to meet in their village hall tomorrow evening to try to find eight volunteers who are under 55 and who would be prepared to attend a weekly training session. If they fail, the island volunteer fire service will have to be disbanded and emergency cover provided instead from Berwick-upon-Tweed, 15 miles to the north, when the tide is out and by helicopter from Alnwick, 15 miles to the south, when it is in.

The island has had its own force of unpaid fire-fighters for the past five years since Northumberland county council provided a fire tender. Before that, a length of hose, a handcart and community spirit were all that protected property on

the island from fire. However, the new Control of Substances Hazardous to Health regulations mean that part-time volunteer firemen must be trained in dealing with spillages and fires involving potentially dangerous materials. The regulations also state that the volunteers have to be under 55, which means that several of the existing crew and their leader, retired shop keeper Mr Douglas Cromarty, who is 64, must stand down.

Northumberland county council has decided that the volunteer crew should be disbanded and cover provided from the mainland. At high tide a helicopter from RAF Boulmer on the Northumberland coast would take off, collect an emergency fire crew at Alnwick and then fly it to the island to man the fire tender.

Mr Cromarty said: "It could take at least 45 minutes before a helicopter arrives and even when the tide

is out and the causeway clear it would take half an hour for a fire tender to come from Berwick. There is also the London-Edinburgh main railway running between the main road and the causeway and the level crossing on the road to the island can be closed for ten minutes at a time when a train is due.

"We hope we can find enough volunteers on the island who will meet the new requirements and allow it to keep some form of local emergency cover."

The existing crew also provides cover for the historic Lindisfarne castle and the priory which in the summer attract thousands of visitors.

The volunteer crew, which has dealt with 11 fires in five years, also pumps out sinking boats and, although the pet population is small and trees few, it has rescued one cat stuck on a branch.

Leading article, page 17

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Farmers 'face disaster if subsidy cuts are imposed'

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH agriculture will slide from depression into disaster unless action is taken to arrest its decline, Sir Simon Gourlay, president of the National Farmers' Union (NFU), said yesterday at the annual Royal Smithfield Show at Earl's Court, London. Farm income this year was at its lowest level in real terms since the second world war, he said. His warning came as thousands of farmers, including a British contingent, staged a protest march in Brussels against proposals for sharp cuts in farm subsidies which are being discussed by more than 100 nations as part of measures to liberalise world trade.

Sir Simon said: "Pressure from the Americans and their allies in the GATT [General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade] talks has forced the

European Community to offer a cut of 30 per cent in support for agriculture. Cuts of this severity would spell disaster for British farmers. There has to be another way."

The NFU's "supply management" concept, which would compensate farmers for compulsory restraints on agricultural production through the EC, was the only realistic way to control food surpluses while maintaining farming incomes and preventing an exodus from the land.

Sir Simon brushed aside differences with the Country Landowners' Association (CLA), which on Sunday described supply management as fraught with danger for British farmers. The association, he said, had not thought through the consequences of its position.

"The CLA wants a freeing-up of the planning system, presumably so that farmers and landowners could sell houses and housing plots and development land and get out of their present problems like that," Sir Simon said. That might be fine for some but it was not a solution for tenant farmers and was not the way to protect the countryside.

He said that over the past decade between 20,000 and 30,000 farmers had gone out of business, and a similar number was likely to leave the land over the next ten years. "If we get the worst scenario, then the exodus could be closer to 60,000, accounting for about half the present number of full-time farmers."

Among the ideas proposed by the NFU is a compulsory "set-aside" scheme for cereal growers under which they would be paid to take a proportion of their land out of production.

Sir Simon said it was simply not realistic to talk of abolishing price support and moving straight to a free market in farm trade. If the EC showed it was serious about reducing the food surpluses which disturbed world trade, the main objections of the Community's trading partners would be met.

Farm workers yesterday lodged a claim with the Agricultural Wages Board for a 50 per cent pay rise next year, which would lift the minimum rate from £122.10 to £180 a week. The NFU called the claim unrealistic.

The NFU is to meet representatives of the main supermarket chains early next month to discuss farmers' complaints of excessive profit-taking by the big stores, it was disclosed yesterday.

GATT talks, page 1



Gourlay: only alternative is 'supply management'



Two ballet veterans, Dame Alicia Markova (right) and Dame Ninette de Valois, at Sadler's Wells theatre, London, after a ballet marking Dame Alicia's 80th birthday. Review, page 22

Hull presses for return of power to go with its prosperity

Michael Heseltine wants to allow cities to opt out of their surrounding counties. Peter Davenport reports on the view from one

SHOULD anyone call directory enquiries in Hull there will be no charge. The information will come not from British Telecom but from an operator working for the city's own communications company.

Unusual among cities within the UK, Hull maintains its own successful and innovative telephone service, run by a company formed and owned by the city council. It has provided subscribers with the latest digital equipment. Darryl Stephenson, Hull's deputy chief executive, said yesterday: "It does seem ironic that we can operate such a successful concern as the telephone company and yet we have lost our powers to provide many of the basic services to our customers."

The Labour-controlled city council has been campaigning for the restoration of its powers to deal with social services, education, waste disposal, strategic planning, fire and police services since it lost them to Humberside county council when it was created in 1974. "We want to be the enablers and providers of a full range of services to meet the needs of all our customers, tenants and industrial and commercial concerns. It will aid Hull's development into the next century as we become increasingly important as a gateway to Europe with all the opportunities that offers. Without the return of our powers it will be like fighting with one hand tied behind our back," Mr Stephenson said.

The decision of Michael

Heseltine, the environment secretary, to order an investigation by civil servants into the feasibility of allowing big cities to opt out of their surrounding counties would effectively re-create old, autonomous county boroughs. Hull is a member of the Major Cities Group which has been campaigning for the restoration of county borough status. Patrick Doyle, the leader of Hull council, is also chairman of the group. Last night he said the group would be seeking a meeting with Mr Heseltine in the new year to press their claims.

Last week the Boundary Commission said that the area on the south of the Humber should be returned to Lincolnshire and suggested that the part remaining on the north side of the river be renamed East Yorkshire in response to overwhelming public opinion. The present population of the county is 850,000 and there are complaints that Hull, with its 250,000 residents and being the centre for industry, business, commerce and shopping dominates the county.

City council officials argued yesterday that if the commission's

recommendations are accepted by Mr Heseltine, then the only sensible solution to local government on the north bank of the Humber would be make Hull a county borough with a new authority catering for the remaining, mainly rural, area. Mr Stephenson said that the city could be used as a test bed for the rest of county borough powers in advance of the other members of the "big eleven" receiving the same treatment.

In the 16 years since it lost significant powers Hull has transformed itself from a city heavily dependent on its fishing fleet. Today it has a diverse economy handling a growing amount of import and export trade, oil refining and a sizable pharmaceutical sector.

Although the fishing fleet has diminished, fish is still an important element of the economy with 40 per cent of Iceland's total catch being landed at Hull and supplying a large, local processing industry. Almost £40 million of central and local government funding has financed 600 projects and pulled in large amounts of private capital.

Last week Helgi Agustsson, the Icelandic ambassador to London, visited the city and was shown around its still changing waterfront and urban landscape. On seeing the improvements, he remarked: "Where is the recession I keep hearing about?"

Leading article, page 17

Fans tell of disorder at stadium on day 95 died

THERE was mass disorder outside Hillsborough football stadium shortly before 95 people were crushed to death inside the ground, a supporter told the inquest yesterday.

Another said the tunnel leading to the stand in which the supporters died was jam-packed solid before the FA Cup semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest on April 15 last year.

Mr Thomas Kenneth Hilton, an accountant's assistant, clerk, of Thornton, Liverpool, told the ninth day of the inquest in Sheffield, South Yorkshire, that there were hundreds of people outside the ground when he arrived at about 2.40pm. "Everyone seemed to arrive at exactly the same time. It was a mass disorder. There were no queues at all."

Mr Graeme Hurst, a sales general manager from Crosby, Liverpool, said he made his way into the ground through the tunnel leading to the Leppings Lane stand at about 2.50pm. "The tunnel was jam-packed solid and you were carried with the general flow of people. The enclosure in front was jam-packed. There was no way you could move in there."

Graham Richardson, a Liverpool supporter, said the perimeter gates were closed when he arrived at the ground. "It was getting close to kick-off time so people were getting more and more angry." When the gates were opened he was forced on by the crush behind. People were shouting "get back", and a policeman at the front fence was trying to help by bending spikes on the railings. Mr Richardson said: "People were in distress and I did not have any difficulty realising that."

Shortly afterwards there was a smaller surge in the area where a crush barrier collapsed and Mr Richardson saw people falling over.

The hearing continues today.

Pension age test

The legality of Britain's unequal pensionable retirement ages is to be tested at the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. A High Court judge yesterday referred the matter to Europe at the request of the Equal Opportunities Commission with the agreement of Tony Newton, the social security secretary. The aim is to seek a ruling on whether the different pensionable ages for men and women — 65 and 60 respectively — unlawfully discriminate against men under European law.

Prison art

Frank Cook, aged 38, who is serving a seven-year sentence in Hull prison for firearm offences, is to have two pieces of sculpture shown at the Metropolitan Gallery, New York, next year.

Zeebrugge case

A judge yesterday approved a proposal by relatives of Zeebrugge ferry disaster victims to bring a High Court test case against P & O European Ferries to claim damages for mental suffering. It will involve up to 12 claimants.

Woman dies

A man has been reported for murder and has been detained at a secure unit after the death of an elderly woman patient in the psychiatric ward of Watford general hospital on Sunday morning.

Doctor banned

Dr Mohammed Ali Khan, registered in South Shields, Tyne & Wear, was yesterday banned by the General Medical Council from practising as a doctor, after being found guilty in March of indecently assaulting a patient.

Soccer claim

Andrew Spencer, aged 29, a soccer supporter from Rothwell, Leeds, is suing police for the price of his match ticket after being wrongfully arrested when football fans rioted at Bournemouth last season.

Cannabis charge

A gardener on the Queen's Sandringham estate has been charged with importing cannabis and possession of the drug. Anthony Townley, aged 28, of West Newton, Norfolk, is also accused of having a shotgun without a licence.

Fire death

A child died and two others were badly burnt when fire broke out in a flat in Northam, Southampton, yesterday. Their mother, Maggie Wright, was also seriously hurt after the fire. She is now in hospital.

Drugs raid

Police have seized a large amount of "speed" after raiding an alleged drug factory on an industrial estate in Hitchin.

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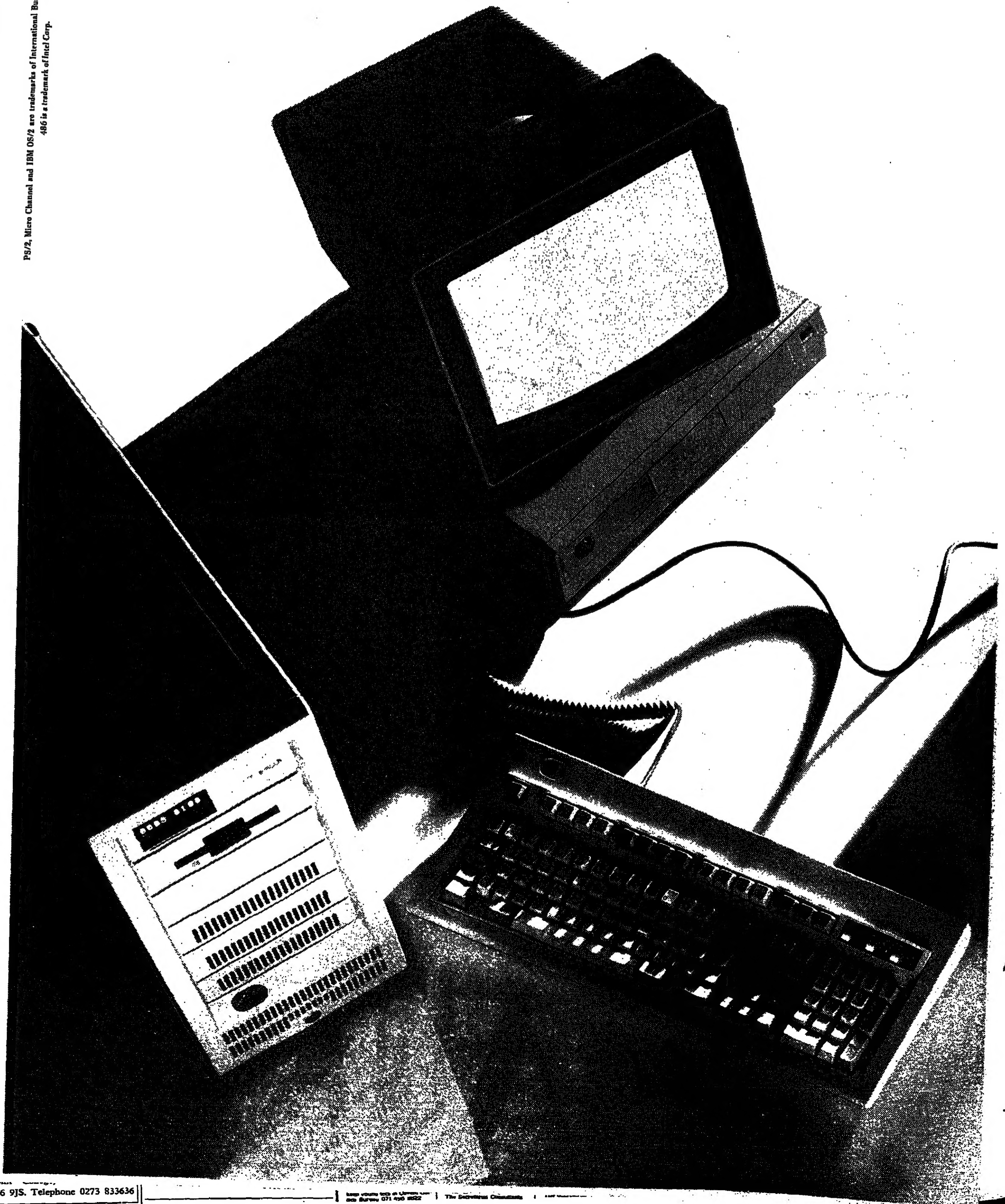
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IBM



Inhaler offers adult asthma sufferers longer-term relief

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

AN ASTHMA drug launched yesterday is claimed to offer significant improvements in the treatment of a condition that affects up to two million people in Britain and is growing rapidly.

Serevent, developed by Glaxo, is taken by inhalation twice a day and eliminates the symptoms of wheezing, coughing, breathlessness and sleep disturbances in most adult asthma patients. It will be prescribed immediately in conjunction with existing steroid drugs and should eliminate the need for frequent use of existing inhalers for the relief of symptoms, which are caused by constriction of airways in the lungs.

Its main advantage over the existing drugs, of which the best known is salbutamol (Ventolin), is the long-term relief it provides. Sufferers may have to use Ventolin inhalers a dozen or more times a day to dilate the airways and control symptoms, and its effects wear off in about four hours. A single

dose of Serevent relieves symptoms for 12 hours, which will make it possible for many asthma sufferers to enjoy a good night's sleep for the first time in years.

Chemically the two drugs are similar, but Serevent achieves its long-term effects by anchoring itself in place, thanks to a long molecule which locks on to receptor sites in the lung.

Serevent attaches itself more slowly than salbutamol, and will not therefore be used for the immediate relief of symptoms, but once in place it stays there. Two doses a day, one in the morning and one at night, should be sufficient.

The drug will cost about £1 a day, and is so far licensed only for adults. Further clinical studies are needed before it can be prescribed for children. Ashley Woodcock, consultant lung physician at Wythenshawe hospital in Manchester, said yesterday that there had been an enormous increase in asthma in the 1970s and 80s. Clinical

studies had shown that Serevent was "a very effective therapy, particularly for night-time symptoms" he said. "I have seen quite a few advances that have not lived up to the claims, but this is really a major improvement."

There is evidence that Serevent controls the inflammation reaction that underlies asthma attacks, as well as diminishing the symptoms, according to John Hall, medical director of Allen & Hanbury's, the Glaxo group company that is marketing the drug. More work would be needed to clarify that aspect of the drug's performance, he said.

Asthma is the commonest chronic disease in the developed world. It causes about 2,000 deaths a year in Britain. Doctors believe that it is still seriously underdiagnosed, and cannot explain why it is increasing so rapidly, though environmental influences such as pollution and allergens such as the house dust mite have been implicated.



Fresh start: St Mary-in-the-Castle, Hastings, East Sussex, in the midst of renovation. Once repaired, it may be used as a 1066 tourist centre

Georgian church restored to its former glory

John Young describes how an elegant Georgian church in Hastings, East Sussex, was saved from destruction and is now being renovated

THE completion of the first phase of the restoration of a Georgian church in Hastings, East Sussex, which a few years ago was considered fit only for demolition, will be marked by a topping-out on December 14. It may have a new life as a tourist centre.

St Mary-in-the-Castle was designed by Joseph Kay and completed in 1825 as the centrepiece of a terrace of

elegant town houses built against a cliff overlooking the sea. The church is fronted by a portico with Ionic columns and was described

by the late Sir Nikolaus Pevsner, the architectural historian, as the best church of the 1820s, belonging to a great continental tradition.

The whole terrace is listed grade II starred.

The name of the church dates from four years after the Norman conquest, when a collegiate chapel was built in a castle on the West Hill for Robert, Count of Eu, who held the Rape of Hastings, a stretch of land containing the port and the castle. By the mid 16th century, the castle and the chapel were in ruins and, in 1531, the land was sold to Sir Thomas Pelham.

In the late 18th century, the old cinque port became a fashionable watering place for London society. The church, seating about 1,500 people, was commissioned by Pelham's descendant, the second Earl of Chichester, as his private chapel, in which the parishioners of the elegant new Regency resort would be invited to worship.

His son, the third earl, became increasingly involved in church affairs as an ecclesiastical commissioner and president of the Church Missionary Society. St Mary-in-the-Castle became the parish church in 1884 and was fully restored four years later.

After the second world war, the congregation declined and the last Anglican service was held on September 13, 1970. The building was leased to the Assembly of God Full Gospel Church but the group could not raise the money for repairs, and the redundant building was sold in 1982.

Demolition and redevelopment proposals submitted by the new owner were rejected by Hastings borough council, which wanted the building preserved. Three years ago, the council bought it, a move said to have been partly prompted by Queen

Elizabeth the Queen Mother, as patron of the Georgian Society.

John Papworth, the architect responsible for the restoration, said that when the council bought the building, large parts of the ceiling were on the floor, rain had poured in and the structural timbers were rotting. Vandalism had hurled beams through the roof from the cliff top.

Bill Higginbottom, contract manager of Cox Brothers, the builders carrying out the restoration work, said: "I had never seen anything like it. The floor was inches deep in seagull droppings. We had to clean the whole place before we could even start work."

The building is surrounded by scaffolding and a temporary cover has been put up to allow reconstruction of the curved roof. Building materials have to be loaded and unloaded on the seaford as the approach road runs over the top of a row of shops and cannot support heavy traffic.

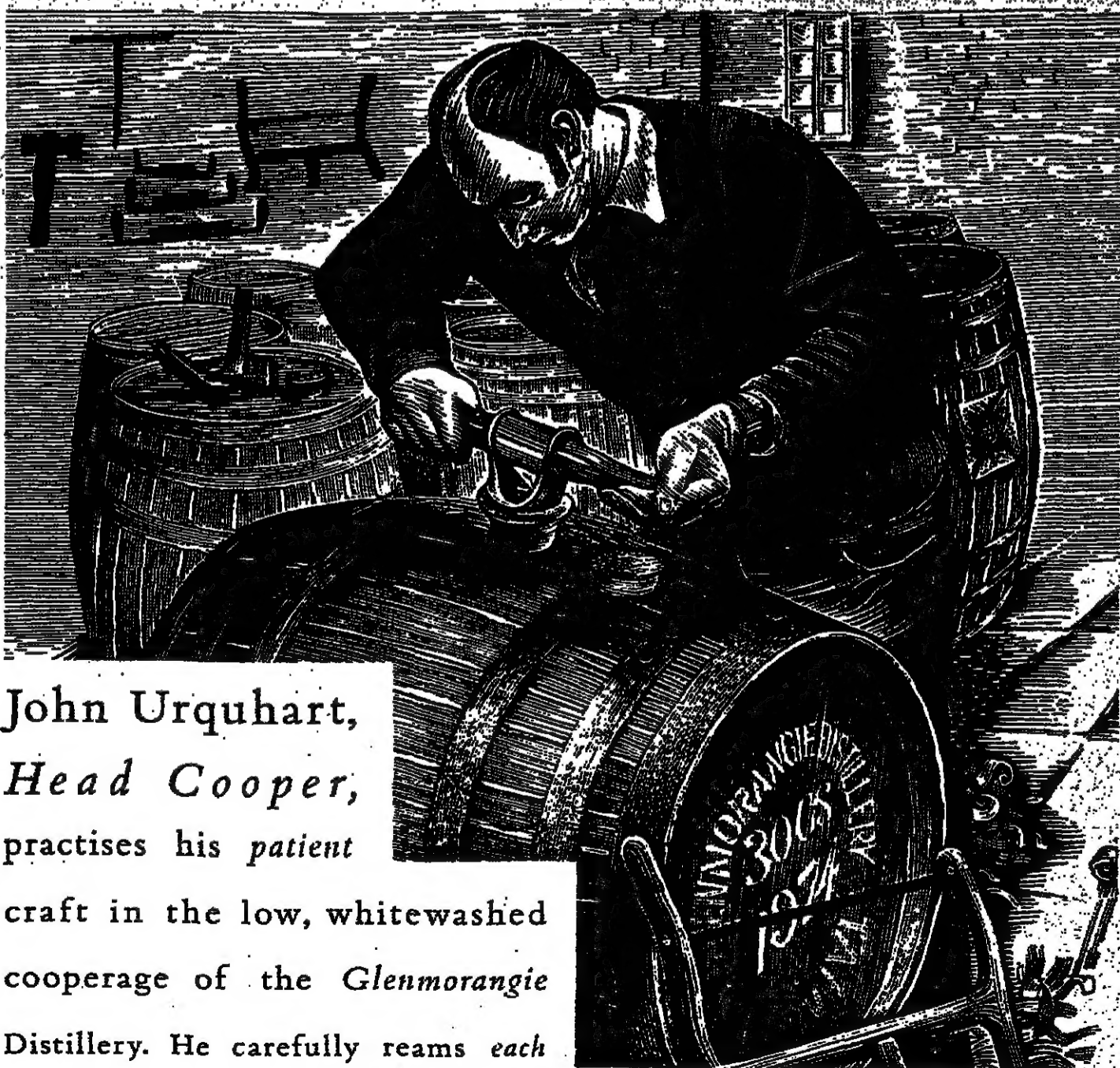
"The men have not only had to develop new skills, but adapt to the old tough ways when stuff was humped around by hand," Mr Higginbottom said. "But they seem to enjoy it much more than working on the average boring modern box."

The first phase of the work is expected to cost about £1.3 million, with help from English Heritage, which is advising on restoration details. A final use for the building has yet to be agreed, but Mr Papworth would like to see it used as a "1066 centre" for tourists. The Queen Mother has been invited to inspect the building next summer.

NUMBER XI. OF BUNGHOLEES AND HOGSHEADS (OR... ROBBING THE ANGELS).

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Handcrafted by the SIXTEEN MEN of TAIN.

Drug trial girl 'knew few details'

From Neil Kelly
in Bangkok

THE younger of two teenage Birmingham girls on trial for attempted drug trafficking knew more about the operation than the elder defendant, a police captain told the criminal court yesterday, as the prosecution completed its case against Karen Smith, aged 19, who has pleaded guilty. Patricia Cahill, aged 17, her co-defendant, denies the charge. She is being tried separately in the juvenile court.

Police captain Chatchawal Pusitipong said he had found that Miss Smith knew only in a general way about the planning and itinerary of their trip to Thailand, while Miss Cahill "knew all the details". The judge disallowed one question by Miss Smith's lawyer because it implied, he said, that she had been made to do something against her will. "I don't believe that," he added.

The officer said that dates on the defendants' passports showed that Miss Cahill had obtained her passport for the journey to Thailand before Miss Smith got hers. He had gathered from the defendants that a third party had paid for their air tickets, and that someone, he did not know who, had been due to meet them in Amsterdam on their return.

The trial was adjourned until December 17.

Camelford pollution trial opens

THE South West Water Authority went on trial yesterday, accused of polluting the public water supply which served the town of Camelford in north Cornwall more than two years ago.

The hearing at Exeter crown court is expected to last more than three weeks. The authority denies two charges causing a public nuisance between July 1 and July 31, 1988 and causing poisonous matter to enter the controlled waters of the River Camel.

The first charge alleges that the authority supplied water from the Lowermoor water treatment works containing enough aluminium sulphate to endanger the health or comfort of the public, that it failed to exercise reasonable care to ensure that the water was wholesome and that it endangered public health by not giving a warning.

The second charge alleges that it caused poisonous matter, aluminium sulphate, to enter the Camel.

Before the jury was empanelled Judge Neville asked potential jurors whether any of them, or their close family or friends, were employed by, or had worked for, the authority, had lived in north Cornwall in 1988, or had shares in South West Water, the public company which succeeded the authority. Three men were excluded. The trial was then adjourned until today.

Pan Am 'permitted to ease airport checks'

A FORMER Pan Am security chief said yesterday that the airline was given official permission to ease airport security measures a year before the Lockerbie disaster.

Mr Daniel Soneson, Pan Am's former systems director of corporate security, said that the Federal Aviation Administration which regulates commercial airlines, allowed Pan Am to x-ray luggage rather than search it.

Mr Soneson, general manager of airport services at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, told the disaster enquiry at Dumfries

that the authority gave the "dispensation" at a meeting of airlines in October 1987. He admitted that there was no written record and said that he did not know that no other US airlines were under the impression that security had been eased.

The enquiry has been told that the bomb that blew up Pan Am Flight 103 was hidden in a suitcase carried on a feeder flight from Frankfurt. Baggage from the feeder flight was not subject to security checks before being loaded on to Flight 103 at Heathrow.

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Washington hawks fear deal as they count days to war

From PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

THIS YEAR the smart Advent calendar for Washington marks the tides and moons in the Middle East as well as the Wise Men's Advent Star. It goes beyond Christmas Day to the tenth of Ramadan on March 26. Each date in the countdown to religious celebration is also a date nearer to a possible war.

Those nights on which possible invasion beaches are marked with the war sign of a coloured wave, those with moonless nights to hide invaders are marked with a black crescent; those with both, such as December 19 to 22, are the ones coloured red.

Signs of peace-and-good-will come on the dates of the week beginning December 12, when Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz has been invited to Washington; also between the dates of December 15 and January 15, the day on which the United Nations mandate to use force comes into effect, and the last date on which Secretary of State James Baker is likely to go to Baghdad.

The officials, avoiding the

world "ultimatum", say the talks will convey a last message to President Saddam and that they are necessary to reassure domestic opinion. They add that they will discourage potential compromisers around the world from intervening in the dispute as the United Nations deadline of January 15 approaches.

The debate for peace or war, they say, is still open. Nevertheless, the moonless, high-water nights of January 17 to 20 and February 16 to 18 are almost certainly ringed in red on administration calendars.

In general the official voice in Washington is hawkish - too hawkish for several senators who listened to Dick Cheney, the defence secretary, yesterday. None the less, for many hawks outside the administration the prospects for an appeaser's peace are still too high. Among others, the diplomatic overtures have alarmed Dr Henry Kissinger, the former Secretary of State, who argues that, far from discouraging would-be mediators, the Baker mission will encourage self-styled peace-makers to conduct mercy dashes to Baghdad.

The result, he believes, would be a fragmentation of the alliance, postponement of the UN deadline, and a stretching out of the military option into the days of Ramadan and the Haj pilgrimage. In such circumstances, Dr Kissinger says, Saudi Arabia's own Islamic institutions will be under pressure that may be intolerable.

Another prominent hawk, William Safire, a columnist on

The New York Times, argues that Mr Baker himself is by nature and instinct almost certain to offer President Saddam a deal that will allow Iraq to retain its military might and enable the dictator to claim credit for subsequent Middle East peace conferences on the Palestinian question. Israeli diplomats, too, fear that will be the outcome.

On the other hand, those whose chief anxiety is to avoid war, even if it means leaving President Saddam to continue as a powerful regional menace, have welcomed the talks. Their hopes are the hawks' fear - diplomacy may gather momentum and eventually force some sort of compromise with a Saddam regime weakened by sanctions.

The professional teachers of regional realpolitik say that a flattened Iraq will be merely a corpse upon which Iran and Syria can gorge, eventually themselves becoming equally dangerous threats. The preference of this camp is for a chastened President Saddam, or a successor, to maintain power. Such is their faith in Mr Baker's magic diplomatic skills that they think this can be achieved without war.

However, the only really important calendar, Mr Bush's, may still be blank. Those who have observed him closely in recent days say he seems well-prepared for war and that, in the aftermath of his trip to Saudi Arabia, he has become increasingly confident that a short, sharp and humiliating defeat can be inflicted upon Iraq, albeit at the cost of several thousand US lives.



Time to go part of the 400-truck convoy of Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces, which withdrew from Beirut to comply with a peace agreement

Sanctions spur resourceful Iraqis to produce bumper food crops

From NICHOLAS REESTON IN BAGHDAD

SANCTIONS may have begun to bite in some areas of the Iraqi economy but the peasants are demonstrating that some sectors can survive, even thrive, under the most stringent embargo.

An elderly Kurdish farmer could barely conceal his pride when he was interviewed on Iraqi television's version of *The Farming World*, recounting in detail this season's increased crop output. With US-Iraqi talks taking place in the coming weeks, ahead of the January 15 UN deadline

for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, the answer to whether sanctions would have worked in the long term by bringing the Iraqi regime to its knees may never be known.

But there is mounting evidence that the sanctions policy failed to take account of Iraq's ability to adapt and survive. After sanctions were first imposed, economic counsellors from the embassies of member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development had private talks in Baghdad on

August 16 to assess Iraq's vulnerability to the embargo.

"With hindsight, the assessments proved to be way off the mark," a diplomat who attended the meeting said. "In particular, I recall one specialist calculating that the country had enough sugar for only 19 days and yet now, four months later, it is still available in the shops along with most other goods."

One example of Iraq's adaptability occurred in October when the then oil minister announced petrol rationing because Iraq did not have the chemical additives needed to refine its crude oil. Within a week, however, another government ministry found that it could manufacture the chemicals. Rationing was lifted, and the oil minister lost his job.

The military sector has displayed a similar resilience, and Western experts said that Iraq has continued its research and development projects.

Before August, Baghdad had relied on overseas suppliers for as much as 75 per cent of its food needs, but the agricultural sector, long neglected by a government with defence and technology priorities, has thrived now that resources have been diverted to farmers. Although basic items such as bread, rice and

sugar, are rationed, Baghdad's shops are laden with locally produced meat, vegetables, fruit and such luxury goods as cigarettes and whisky, which have been smuggled in from Jordan, Turkey and Iran.

Haumum al-Shamah, a professor of economics at Baghdad University who recently completed a survey on the impact of sanctions, said the industrial sector had been hit by the embargo and 5 to 7 per cent of factories had shut.

"We estimate that 40 per cent of non-military industry would close down in one year, and that by the end of the second year the entire sector would come to a halt if the present conditions persisted," he said. "However, as far as agriculture goes, Iraq should never suffer from shortages, and we estimate that we will actually have a surplus of wheat in a year's time."

One Western diplomat conceded that it was fortunate that the sanctions policy had been eclipsed by diplomatic moves. "I actually had one Iraqi come up and thank me the other day," he said. "He told me that they had tried for years to become agriculturally self-sufficient, and that it looked as though the embargo would accomplish it for them in a matter of months."

Beirut sees last militia go

By ALI JASER
IN BEIRUT AND
OUR FOREIGN STAFF

FOR the first time since the civil war started in 1976, Beirut was yesterday freed of all private armies and militias with the withdrawal of the most formidable of them, the Christian Lebanese Forces, from the Lebanese capital.

The strength of the Lebanese Forces was evident from the 400-strong truck convoy which wound its way out of their stronghold in the Ashrafieh district of east Beirut and headed for the mountains, flying their own red-and-white flags and with tanks plastered with posters of Samir Geagea, their leader.

The convoy included Soviet-made T54 tanks, 240-mm mortars, 155-mm artillery, armoured personnel carriers, multi-barrel rocket launchers and jeeps and trucks loaded with tonnes of ammunition. A spokesman for the 2,000 militiamen on the march said their ammunition depots had been cleaned out. Government troops guarded their route along the coastal highway as thousands of people, many surprised by the arsenal, lined the roadside.

The Christian militia's withdrawal followed that of the Hezbollah, Amal and Druze Muslim militias. With the capital now free of warring armies, 1,200 government troops, consisting of two army brigades and an infantry battalion, moved into the Christian neighbourhoods in east Beirut to secure the area.

But in Beirut's southern shams, Hezbollah guards at the entrance of their Neor el-Ahed headquarters had not relinquished their weapons, in defiance of an army communiqué which gave a warning that all weapons would be seized and their owners arrested.

Once the Lebanese army completes its deployment, President Hrawi intends to form a new cabinet to bring in the warlords. He would then enlarge the parliament and start a diplomatic campaign to force Israel to withdraw from its "security zone". The peace plan calls for the disbanding of all militia by next March and a Syrian troop withdrawal by September 1992.

Arabs in Israeli raid given long jail terms

From RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI yesterday imposed heavy prison sentences on the 12 Arab gunmen whose abortive seaborne raid on an Israeli beach seven months ago led Washington to break off the dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation and thus contributed to the collapse of the Middle East peace process.

The gunmen, all between the ages of 20 and 30, and from the Palestine Liberation Front led by Abu Abbas, were each given 30 years in prison by a military court at Lod. Their leader, Ahmed Khalil al-Wazir, aged 20, shouted defiantly in Arabic: "A Palestinian state will arise."

The underground leadership of the *infidada* or Pales-

tinian uprising yesterday marked the approaching third anniversary of the revolt by saying that "all means of struggle" should be used from now on, an instruction widely interpreted to mean an endorsement by the use of guns as well as stones and knives in a bid to force Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories.

Israeli security sources said the May 30 raid on a crowded beach at Nizania, near Tel Aviv, had been launched from Libya. The attack was foiled and no Israeli lives were lost. The prosecution said plans carried by the gunmen showed they had intended to launch attacks on hotels and Western embassies in Tel Aviv.



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LET IT THROUGH THE TIMES

Source: NRS Oct 1989 - Sept 1990

Victorious Kohl faces problem in sending troops to Gulf



Lafontaine: encouraging peace missions to Iraq

BEFORE the election Helmut Kohl promised that a united Germany would shoulder its international responsibilities. Now the West is waiting to see whether the new German superpower will make good that pledge.

Herr Kohl made the promise most recently when President Bush visited him in the Rhineland last month and politely pressed him for a greater commitment to helping shoulder the burden of international responsibility. The American president had made no secret in the autumn that he was disappointed by the meagre German support he

had received in responding to the Gulf situation and he pressed Herr Kohl to take a more positive lead in future.

The chancellor was quick to assure President Bush that he would act as soon as the elections were over. He could not do it until then, he explained, because an amendment to the German Basic Law was necessary in order to make it possible for Germany to send troops outside Nato's area. That amendment would need to be passed by the new Bundestag. It is a promise which will not be easy to keep.

The entire Basic Law must now have to be revamped; it was originally

Chancellor Helmut Kohl made a number of campaign promises to the West. Ian Murray examines the difficulties in fulfilling them

written only to last until unification made it possible to create a constitution.

An amendment to allow troops to serve outside Nato areas will be contentious and hard to draft. As the Basic Law stands, the Bundeswehr can be used "for the maintenance of peace". Germany is allowed to "enter a system of collective security; in doing so it

will consent to such limitations upon its rights of sovereignty as will bring about secure and lasting order in Europe and among nations of the world".

Some, like Rupert Scholz, a right-wing lawyer and former defence minister, argue that as it stands this would allow the Bundeswehr to serve outside Nato's area "for the maintenance

of peace". Herr Kohl, however, accepts the majority view that the phrase does restrict deployment, which is why he has promised amendments.

There is, however, no widespread support for sending the Bundeswehr overseas. Oskar Lafontaine, the defeated Social Democratic candidate for chancellor, struck a popular note when he asked sarcastically during the campaign if the first act of the new, "great" Germany would be to send troops to war in the Gulf.

It was better to deploy Willy Brandt for peace than to deploy the Bundeswehr for war, he said. Herr

Lafontaine's views are important, because any amendment to the Basic Law will require a two-thirds majority of the Bundestag, and without the SPD Herr Kohl cannot achieve this. He will also face problems within his own coalition, for the liberal Free Democrats (FDP), are unhappy about sending German troops abroad. It is part of a deep, postwar German worry that sending soldiers overseas has had historic implications.

The SPD and FDP might be prepared to see troops go abroad, but only as part of a peace-keeping force under a UN command and only if

another amendment prohibiting German arms sales abroad was also included. There would be insufficient support for an amendment which would allow German soldiers to join a Gulf war.

Apart from this issue is the question of turning the Basic Law into a constitution. A two-thirds majority is also needed for this and Herr Kohl faces a potential revolt from right-wingers unhappy about losing any possible claim on Polish territory.

The SPD, moreover, believes that the new constitution ought to be put to the population in the form of a referendum.

Liberals able to keep the chancellor in check

From Ian Murray in Bonn

HELMUT Kohl starts today the delicate task of forming a new coalition government which will be charged with overseeing the restructuring of eastern Germany. After their sweeping joint victory on Sunday, the three coalition parties will have a majority of 134, the biggest in the history of the Bundestag, with which to press through their policies. Their greatest political difficulties, therefore, threaten to be internal rather than external.

This is evident from the fact that Herr Kohl has been emphasising that there is no time pressure now. Before the election he said he hoped to announce the names of his new government before Christmas. Yesterday he was saying that he had all the time in the world; that four years was a long time to work together and that careful preparation was all important.

He spoke during the day with both Count Otto Lambsdorff, leader of the liberal Free Democrats (FDP), and with the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU) to make preliminary arrangements for coalition negotiations. Significantly he decided to hold discussions first with the CSU, before calling in the FDP, which is certain to want a larger say in policy as well as a higher number of portfolios as its price for joining the government.

Despite Herr Kohl's vote-winning role as "the chancellor of unity", his Christian Democrat Union (CDU) had its worst election result since he became chancellor in 1982. Although the CDU-CSU parties maintained their position as the largest group in the Bundestag, the FDP was the party which gave the coalition its overwhelming majority, picking up votes everywhere in the country and decisively seizing the balance of power.

In Halle, where Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the party's best-known member was born, an FDP candidate even managed to win a direct mandate, the first time the party has achieved this. Although anxious to form a new coalition with Herr Kohl, the FDP has won enough seats to make it possible to bring the Social Democrats (SPD) back to power if it decides to change sides, as it did when it joined the CDU in 1982.

Whether the FDP considers it wise to make a switch depends on how successful Herr Kohl and his new team are in restructuring eastern Germany while protecting the value of the Deutschmark in western pockets.

If things start going badly wrong and Herr Kohl looks like losing the next election in 1994, the FDP is quite capable of switching its allegiance in order to stay in government, particularly if Herr Kohl has not followed the kind of

policies the liberals have been advocating. They have been calling for lower tax levels in the east than in the west, for heavy cuts in defence spending, including axing the European Fighter Aircraft, and for new priorities in public spending. The liberals also want a new law on abortion reform, which will be difficult for the Catholic side of the CDU to accept.

One senior FDP member who will not be available for the cabinet is Helmut Haussmann, economics minister for the past two years, who announced yesterday that after 20 years of political activity he wanted to have more free time.

The SPD is relying on its gloomy economic forecasts coming true as its best hope of recovering from its worst defeat since 1933. It has decided to choose its defeated candidate, Oskar Lafontaine, to take over as party leader, although he will not take his seat in the Bundestag, leaving the task of running the party there to Hans-Jochen Vogel, the former president.

Herr Lafontaine has been encouraged by the fact that younger voters everywhere were choosing the SPD, while the party made modest but real advances all over eastern Germany after its disastrous showing in the Volkskammer elections there last March.

Herr Kohl, he said yesterday, was elected by the old, nostalgic generation. His heavy defeat was tempered by the fact that he increased his party's vote by over 7 per cent in his home territory of Saarland and was elected directly as a constituency member. In the Rhineland-Palatinate, Herr Kohl only held his seat through being picked as the lead CDU candidate on the state list.

Herr Lafontaine has now told his supporters that the SPD has already mapped out the scenario for the future with its predictions of soaring unemployment, social tension and plunging productivity. In four years or less, he insists, the truth of those predictions will sweep the CDU from office.

The SPD will nevertheless find some problems coping with the demands of the communist Party of Democratic Socialists (PDS), whose tiny group is threatening to steal the SPD thunder whenever possible, arguing that the western Socialists just do not understand what the true problems are. Since it has so few seats, the PDS cannot constitute a group and will have to fight a difficult constitutional battle in order to obtain its voting rights in the Bundestag.

Having lost all their seats, the Greens in the west, meanwhile, are having to regroup, probably merging eventually with the movement in the east to fight the next election together.



GERMAN ELECTIONS - 1990

	%	Seats	West Turnout 78.5 (84.3)	East (83.6)
CDU	36.7	239	35.9 (37)	43.4 (42.7)
SPD (DSU in East)	31.1	51	31.1 (31.1)	14.0 (6.6)
FDP	11.0	79	10.8 (8.1)	13.4 (5.6)
Coalition total	54.8	372	55.6 (55.8)	66.8 (n/a)
SPD	33.5	239	35.9 (37)	23.6 (20.8)
PDS	2.4	17	0.3 (-)	9.9 (15.2)
Alliance '90/Greens	1.2	8	4.7 (8.3)	5.9 (-)
Greens	3.9	-	2.3 (-)	1.3 (-)
Republicans	2.1	-	-	-
Others (16 parties)	2.1	-	-	-
Total	100	636		

National (1987 in West Germany and March, 1990, in East Germany in brackets) Turnout 77.8%

BERLIN

Simultaneous vote for Bundestag and City Council

	General election result Turnout 81.1%	City election result Turnout 81%
CDU	39.3	40.3
FDP	9.3	9.2
SPD	30.5	30.5
All '90/Greens	3.9	5.0
All '90/Greens	3.3	4.0
PDS	9.7	9.2
Reps	2.4	3.1

First election in a united city so no comparison possible. Alternative List only in West Berlin. Alliance '90 only in East Berlin. Seats for Bundestag only.

HOW THE STATES VOTED

Results state by state in % of votes cast (1987 result in West and March 1990 result in East in brackets)	Brandenburg Turnout 74.0 (83.54)	Lower Saxony Turnout 80.7 (85.0)	Saxony Turnout 78.4 (83.6)
	% Seats	% Seats	% Seats
CDU	36.3 (33.6)	44.3 (41.5)	49.5 (43.4)
FDP	9.7 (4.7)	10.3 (8.8)	12.4 (5.7)
SPD	32.9 (29.9)	38.4 (41.4)	18.2 (15.1)
All '90/Gr	6.6 (2.1)	4.5 (7.4)	5.9 (-)
PDS	11.0 (16.3)	0.3 (-)	9.0 (13.6)
Reps	1.7 (-)	1.0 (-)	1.2 (-)
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania Turnout 71.0 (82.87)	Bremen Turnout 76.5 (82.7)	North Rhine-Westphalia Turnout 78.7 (85.4)	Saxony-Anhalt Turnout 72.4 (83.41)
	% Seats	% Seats	% Seats
CDU	41.2 (36.3)	30.9 (28.9)	38.6 (44.5)
FDP	9.1 (2.0)	12.8 (8.8)	19.7 (7.7)
SPD	28.6 (23.4)	42.5 (46.5)	24.7 (23.7)
All '90/Gr	6.9 (2.0)	3.3 (14.5)	8.3 (-)
PDS	14.2 (22.5)	1.1 (-)	9.4 (14.0)
Reps	1.4 (-)	2.1 (-)	0.6 (-)
Baden-Württemberg Turnout 77.5 (83.1)	Hamburg Turnout 78.3 (83.0)	Rhineland-Palatinate Turnout 81.4 (86.7)	Schleswig-Holstein Turnout 78.6 (84.4)
	% Seats	% Seats	% Seats
CDU	46.5 (46.7)	35.6 (37.4)	43.5 (41.90)
FDP	12.3 (12.0)	12.0 (9.8)	11.4 (9.4)
SPD	29.1 (29.3)	51.0 (41.2)	38.5 (39.5)
Greens	5.7 (10.0)	4.8 (11.0)	4.0 (8.0)
PDS	0.3 (-)	1.1 (-)	0.3 (-)
Reps	9.2 (-)	1.7 (-)	0.2 (-)
Bavaria Turnout 74.5 (81.7)	Hesse Turnout 81.9 (86.7)	Saarland Turnout 85.1 (87.3)	Thuringia Turnout 75.4 (84.46)
	% Seats	% Seats	% Seats
CDU	51.9 (55.1)	41.3 (41.3)	45.2 (52.5)
FDP	6.7 (8.1)	10.9 (9.1)	14.6 (4.6)
SPD	26.7 (27.0)	38.0 (38.7)	21.9 (17.5)
Greens	4.6 (7.7)	5.6 (9.4)	6.1 (-)
PDS	0.2 (-)	0.4 (-)	8.3 (11.4)
Reps	5.0 (-)	2.1 (-)	1.2 (-)

Weary voters have the last laugh

From Anne McElvoy in Berlin

THE sheep in the corner of the field in Mühlentrop, north of Berlin were hard at work yesterday devouring a giant picture of the victorious chancellor. Along the main streets of Berlin the hoardings of Helmut Kohl, Oskar Lafontaine and the lesser stars in the firmament have already tumbled over in the high winds.

On the morning after the battle, the municipal authorities sent out reminders to all parties to delay their inquiries until they had cleared away the debris of democracy. For a nation which tirelessly

wears the badge of being environment-friendly, the Germans fight election campaigns with disregard for the landscape. Not even the remotest Thuringian village has been without its outbreak of ragged posters from which Kohl, Lafontaine and Lambsdorff attempted to outdo one another.

Hopes that it might all be over more quickly this time were raised by a rather too believable comedy sketch broadcast on the ARD network in October. A young woman with the petrified hairstyle and ghastly blouse of the

typical German newsreader announced that the Social Democrats were now so far behind the CDU that they were to give up campaigning to save the pollution caused by jettisoning private aircraft. The millions of marks saved in campaign funds would be invested in job creation in the stricken east, she said.

Within minutes the station switchboard was jammed with calls applauding the announcement. So great was the enthusiasm for ending campaigning six weeks before the election (some even

said they would now consider voting for Herr Lafontaine after all) that the SPD had to hire a slot later the same evening to announce it was still in the fight.

Laughs? We had a few, but then again, not that many. Quips are still not part of the armoury of a German politician, although Herr Lafontaine, the vanquished SPD challenger, daringly remarked that Herr Kohl's evasive pronouncements on the "to be or not to be" question of tax increases resembled the performances of the pop duo Milli Vanilli - "he just keeps on moving his lips, but no intelligible sound comes out". Against the verbal grey of the rest of the campaign, it was treated as an unexcelled example of Wildean derring.

Herr Kohl is not one of nature's wits, but relied instead on his habit of putting his large foot in his even larger mouth. The party officials who stewarded him from event to event called their task "Helmut-sitting" and admitted that their Herr Bundeskanzler on an unguarded day resembled an "elephant in a porcelain shop".

He pirouetted neatly into a pile of china in his speech before the first all-German sitting of the Bundestag in October. Rising to begin a new chapter in German parliamentary history with words "Meine Damen und Herren", he addressed the sitting MPs as "My D-Mark and Gentlemen".

At least half of the 2 per cent vote for East German communist Gregor Gysi must have come from people relieved to see a candidate with a consistent sense of humour. Ritually reviled by the CDU, hated by the SPD as a splitter of the left vote, and spurned by the citizens' groups of the east as the successor to the old hardliners, Herr Gysi has offered to buy a drink for the first politician voluntarily to sit next to him when parliament convenes. And he described his party's vote yesterday as "a victory of quality over quantity".

Chancellor must hold united nation together

By Anne McElvoy

WHEN Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, first beheld the satisfying sight of his convincing win over the Social Democrats on Sunday night, one of his first comments was that he was pleased that the party had done almost equally well in both parts of the country, the federal republic and the former German Democratic Republic (GDR).

This was a give-away line for a politician who after unity in October chided his aides repeatedly for referring to "the former GDR" and single-handedly christened the east: "The five new federal states".

Despite his insistence on the symbolism of oneness, Herr Kohl knows that his main task now is holding together the two newly welded souls in the German breast, while economic considerations dictate that east and west will be separated by a wall of prosperity for years to come.

Unemployment and industrial unrest in the east have been skillfully contained by his Christian Democrats in the run-up to the election. The management of unemployment by the introduction of compulsory part-time working in many factories and the "graduate vote" ensured the party's success.

Herr Kohl's problems will begin in earnest in January, when thousands of families face the financial hangerover of their first Deutschmark Christmas coupled with mass redundancies as factories lay off workers as part of a sweeping "trim to survive" strategy.

The railway strike which briefly paralysed the eastern network in the run-up to the election is unlikely to be the only major industrial action in the new year. The unions, traditionally the puppets of the regime, are emerging with their heads held high in the east once again and relishing the honest fight on their hands.

Wages in the public sector in the east are rarely even half of that earned by a worker doing the same job in the west. Until now Bonn has justified the discrepancy by pointing to the vestiges of the communists' economic mess, and the gentle reminder that east Germans are substantially better off than their neighbours in Eastern Europe.

But the election is a powerful psychological break with the past for the population in the east. They are already showing signs of impatience with western politicians who too frequently exploit the 40 years of dictatorship as a reason for inequalities. Herr Kohl is now their chancellor, too, by their decree and resistance is growing to being treated as "second class Germans".

The new legislative period will discover those difficulties and differences which were swept under the carpet of unity earlier in the year. The underground networks of the Stasi secret police did not cease to function with unity. It would be a statistical miracle if some of the newly elected eastern MPs were not sooner or later unveiled as former conspirators. Few would be prepared to bet that there will not be a clutch of political and economic scandals ahead of Herr Kohl.

East and West Germany now have different abortion laws for a transitional period of two years with a raging row ahead. Eastern politicians elected to the Bundestag, many in Chancellor Kohl's own party, are already under pressure from their constituents to campaign against the forfeit of abortion on demand in early pregnancy.

Public opinion in the east is more liberal than the west on this and similar issues, and the CDU will have to find ways of juggling its bedrock support among the socially conservative in the west and that in the east, based rather on a perception of the party as the radical bringer of free market prosperity than the preserving force of traditional values.

Howeever's fate: President Gorbachev will decide on whether to hand over Erich Honecker, the former east German leader, to the Berlin justice authorities to stand trial on manslaughter charges. The Soviet embassy's Berlin office said yesterday. A statement said that it involved "serious questions" but Moscow did not intend to stand in the way of German justice.

Greens contemplate four years in the wilderness

By Ian Murray

SHATTERED Green party members of the Bundestag yesterday were still unable to believe that none of them had been re-elected in the first all-German election. "It still has not properly percolated through into my brain," Uwe Günther said.

After eight years in parliament the Greens had begun to think they had become a permanent part of the political scene. The fact that they failed to clear the 5 per cent hurdle in order to qualify for any seats means they will now be out by Christmas, their Bonn offices handed over to communists and citizens' rights members from what was East Germany.

The movement has realised, however, that it will have to fight to survive in the political arena and a special conference is now to be called next February to try to thrust out a programme which will hold its supporters together, ready to try to win its way back into parliament.

For the present, the management committee is to stay in office, with nobody offering to take the blame for the Greens taking only 2.9 per cent of the vote, despite the fact that public



Out of office: Christian Strohele, a Greens spokesman, at the Bonn HQ the party must soon leave

awareness of environmental problems has never been higher. The dangerous levels of pollution in eastern Germany are one of the most serious problems facing the new government.

According to Renate Dams, the Greens' leading spokes-

woman, the blame lies not with the movement's politicians but with the political developments connected with German unity. Because of a "Deutschland euphoria", she said, the public was just not interested in environmental issues.

The Greens also suffered because the main parties, particularly the Social Democrats (SPD), embraced the cause of environmentalism. With the SPD campaigning for the ecology and the government coalition promising to help protect nature, popular

support switched to the parties with the power to act.

For the next four years the Greens will have to rely on their point of view being put before parliament by the eight raw members elected in the eastern part of the country, who represent an alliance between the citizens' rights movement, Alliance '90, and the Greens. Although taking only 1.9 per cent of the vote nationally, they won seats due to a special provision for this election, which meant groups in the east only had to obtain a 5 per cent share there in order to qualify.

The separate existence of the Greens in the east highlights the deep rifts that have dogged the movement. Their eclipse in the west means the two will try to form one party.

If they succeed, the nature of the movement is likely to change, since the members in the east want to add a more practical political dimension than has prevailed in the west. According to Frau Vera Wollenberger, one of the eight new members, what is under discussion is a new "Green citizens' forum", a merger of Green ideas with the citizens' movements.

Greens' fortunes, page 16

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Russia takes radical step to private land ownership

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

LEGISLATORS of the Russian Federation last night overcame bitter opposition from conservatives to cast an historic vote in favour of the principle of private ownership of land, albeit subject to draconian restrictions.

In a great tactical victory for Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, and his radical supporters, a resolution approving private holdings was passed by a vote of 100-20, then add three initials. For example if your name is John Henry Smith and you choose H20 JHS you would only pay £200 plus an assignment fee of £80.

Warnings voiced in Moscow

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

GRAVE warnings about the Soviet Union's explosive social climate were issued by conservatives as well as radicals when both groups held meetings here at the weekend to rally their forces for an intensifying political struggle.

At a gathering of the hardline parliamentary group Soyuz, it threatened to introduce a motion of no-confidence in President Gorbachev, and its founder, Colonel Viktor Alksnis, proposed a strict state of emergency.

The other meeting was the first congress of the Democratic Party of Russia, founded six months ago. It was intended to launch an uncompromising struggle against the Communists in factories, ministries and the armed forces, as well as at the hustings.

In a statement it issued a warning about the danger of violence caused by rising political and social tensions. "The resort to force in current conditions will lead to bloody events on an enormous scale, possibly even worldwide catastrophe," it said.

At the Soyuz meeting, Colonel Alksnis spelt out his proposals for a state of emergency, saying that parliament at all levels should be dissolved and the Congress of People's Deputies, the supreme legislature which is due to convene on December 17, should as its final act appoint a committee of national salvation with wide powers.

Colonel Alksnis said of President Gorbachev: "I highly respect his quality and his honour... but his trouble is that he is a romantic dreamer, and now that the country is on the brink of national catastrophe he does not suit this cruel period."

However, the Soyuz movement is expected to wait until the last moment before announcing whether it will in fact introduce a no-confidence motion.

holdings were immoral, unpopular and too important a change to be introduced without a referendum.

Although the idea of taking land on long lease and bequeathing it to one's children has been accepted for the Soviet Union as a whole, outright ownership of land marks a historic break with communist principles brutally enforced during the collectivisation of land in the 1930s.

President Gorbachev has recently made it clear that he objects on ideological grounds to absolute ownership of land.

Radical supporters of private property predicted that the restrictions on ownership would in practice fall by the wayside over the next few years. "In the circumstances, this was a major achievement," said Yevgeny Kim, a deputy from the Soviet Far East who is one of the leading advocates of rapid political change.

The debate was skillfully chaired by Mr Yeltsin, who had to use great tactical skill to avoid acrimony between radicals and conservatives getting out of hand. At one point he rebuked a radical who proposed holding a referendum not on land ownership but on confiscating all the Communist Party's property.

Other parts of the resolution call for big investment in agriculture to improve what is widely agreed to be the wretched economic state of many rural areas of the Russian Federation.

● TOKYO: Japan announced yesterday that it will send transport experts to Moscow next month to help the Soviet Union make its outmoded distribution and warehousing system more efficient (see Joseph writes).

Tokyo, whose relations with Moscow are cool because of a long-running territorial dispute over the Kurile Islands, blames the empty shelves in Soviet food shops on poor distribution rather than scarce supplies. Taiso Watanabe, Japan's foreign ministry spokesman, said: "When the wheat harvest is the best in recent years, why do people starve? There is no easy answer."

Discipline first, page 16



Uniform appearance: Soviet riot police, seen here wearing new uniform, line up to confront demonstrators in Kiev. The protesters were complaining about food rationing, which has been imposed in Kiev and elsewhere

Treaty blow to Baltic hopes

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

REPUBLICS of the Soviet Union which do not sign the new Treaty of Union will be regarded as subject to the old treaty and not as having seceded.

This clarification, given yesterday by Rifaat Nishanov, chairman of the parliament's Council of Nationalities, appears to dash the hopes of the Baltic republics and Georgia that their refusal to sign would be tantamount to leaving the union.

Mr Nishanov was presenting the draft union treaty to the Soviet parliament, the first time the document has been given a public airing since it was published 10 days ago. President Gorbachev, who sees the new treaty as crucial to holding the Soviet Union together, was present.

The parliaments of the Baltic republics, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, have voted for independence from the Soviet Union and the present Georgian government was elected on a platform of full independence.

The ruling that these republics will remain subject to the old treaty unless they sign the

new one means that they will be expected to follow the ponderous procedures laid down in the law on secession. A Baltic deputy, Mikhail Bronshteyn, objected in vain that as the republics had not signed the original treaty of 1922, they could not be held to its provisions.

The draft union treaty makes no mention of secession. It stipulates only that membership of the union is voluntary and that members can vote to expel a member which violates the terms of the treaty. Challenged to say how a republic could secede, Mr Nishanov said that any break-up of the union could only be a "step backward".

He pointed out that republics could not only delegate more powers to the centre by special negotiation, but could also be granted more powers by the centre. This might offer the would-be independent republics a small loophole.

Another question preoccupied parliamentary deputies. Why had the draft treaty replaced the word "socialist" with the word "sovereign" in the title of the USSR? This is

likely to arouse intense debate at the full Soviet parliament, the Congress of People's Deputies, which opens in two weeks' time.

Deputies considered their own role in the new structure, which provides for an elected lower chamber, as at present, but an upper chamber made up of nominees from the republics and ethnic minorities. The Chamber of Nationalities questioned whether nomination was more democratic than direct election.

The Chamber of the Union members were also unhappy, fearing that the proposed new role of the Council of the Federation, meant that it would take over many of the functions of parliament. At present, the council, consisting of the presidents, prime ministers and communist party leaders of the 15 republics, has a purely advisory role.

According to Mr Nishanov, a distinction will be drawn between autonomous republics, which will be treated like full republics, able to sign the treaty themselves, and the others who will be treated as subject, as at present, to the

union republic. This means that the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh will have to come to an agreement with the republic of Azerbaijan. South Ossetia will have to negotiate with Georgia.

As these regions are already at loggerheads with their republics, this would be a recipe for even more civil turmoil.

The only republic which contains smaller autonomous republics is the Russian Federation, and the distinction drawn yesterday can be interpreted as an attempt to exert pressure on the Russian Federation to sign the treaty in its present form. Boris Yeltsin, the Russian leader, has argued for a looser form of union in which the republics are virtual sovereign states in their own right.

The autonomous areas, populated by and large by ethnic minorities, have traditionally regarded the central Soviet authorities as providing protection against the majority. Their fears have been used in turn to further the interests of the centre against individual republics.

Poverty puts Poland under siege

FROM ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

THE first snows have fallen on Eastern Europe. In Warsaw's Eastern railway station, where hundreds of Romanian and Bulgarian refugees spend the night - their day is occupied with begging - the swaddled mothers heat up the billycans for supper and spread blankets on the floor.

Occasionally, as passengers enter for late-night trains, a gust of snow sprinkles the sleeping children.

Doctors say that 80 per cent of the refugee children are suffering from contagious diseases but the parents refuse hospital treatment, fearing that this is the first move towards expulsion and a forced return to an even colder winter in the Balkans.

There are 50,000 Romanian refugees in Poland, several thousand Bulgarians, and it is feared, within months there could be thousands upon thousands of Belorussians and Ukrainians (or ethnic Poles from those republics) crossing the Bug river and the poorly patrolled Soviet-Polish frontier.

The Soviet invasion expected in 1980 when Solidarity burst into action is in 1990 becoming a reality: not the rumbling of tanks but the westward march of poverty and famine.

For its eastern neighbours, Poland is now a relatively prosperous destination. There are no food shortages, the cars and buses still run, the flats are heated. Yet the Poles see it differently. There are perhaps 45,000 people waiting for a visa to America. Others are waiting for the Germans to keep their promise to ease visa restrictions. Then the young Poles will make their escape from the would-be capitalism at home to the real thing.

Eastern Europe is heading for deep recession and economic misery as bad as anything experienced since the winter of 1945. The Gulf confrontation in particular is putting the squeeze on the East European economies. The Hungarian finance minister, Dr Ferenc Rabar, estimates that every \$1 rise in oil

prices adds \$45 million (£22 million) to the Hungarian fuel bill. At the same time the Soviet Union is cutting back its deliveries to all East European countries. From January 1 all trade with the Soviet Union will be denominated in dollars - the era of swapping Bulgarian strawberry jam or suspect Czech shoes for gas and oil is over.

Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia have at least managed to scrape together some reserves over the past year and have enough cash to pay for essential fuel supplies. But they are finding that the Soviet Union is no longer interested in their engineering products, their traditional exports, and that contracts with the former East Germany are not being renewed. The result - factory closures throughout the region.

Bulgaria presents probably the saddest picture. For years it thought of itself as the market garden of socialism, incomparably better off than Ceausescu's Romania. Now

the standard of living has slipped dramatically and has reached an almost Romanian nadir. Food shops are open only a few hours a day. Bread is difficult to get and there are shortages of many other staples.

Even in Sofia electricity is cut off every three hours for an hour or so. The blackouts are growing more frequent, partly because of the closing of two reactors in Bulgaria's only nuclear power station at Kozloduy.

The strains that this economic winter is putting on young democratic institutions can be seen throughout the region. Social envy, the accumulated anger of the workers, this is the new revolutionary passion. Yesterday in the middle of Warsaw there was an impatient, disorderly queue of women fighting to buy fur coats for more than £2,000 a piece. The expression on the faces of the passers-by, full of fury and disgust, was an eloquent warning of the trouble ahead.

Ershad lifts press controls

Dhaka - President Ershad of Bangladesh yesterday lifted press censorship imposed under a state of emergency a week ago, as the country braced itself for an indefinite strike from today.

Earlier the president had urged security forces to deal harshly with demonstrators. The opposition parties have urged all workers to strike for eight hours a day from today. They want President Ershad to resign and hand over to an interim government before free elections can be held. (Reuters)

Rebels close in

Mogadishu - United Somali Congress rebels were only 30 miles northeast of the capital, Mogadishu, according to a correspondent who spent four days in the rebel zone. Advance units were only two hours away by road. In the capital, several people have been killed in four days of clashes between rival clans, witnesses said. (AFP, Reuters)

Aid for China

Peking - Italy and Spain will be the first EC countries to renege on aid and loans to China, suspended after the Tiananmen Square killings. The China Daily said the move followed a visit to the two countries by a high-level delegation in November, the first since the partial lifting of community sanctions last month. (AFP)

3,000 homeless

Moscow - Three thousand people have been left homeless by an earthquake in Kirghizia in Soviet Central Asia, but no lives were lost. Tass said the earthquake registered 6.5 on the 12-point Mercalli scale. Its epicentre was near Uzen in the west of the republic. Tents and basic essentials had been sent to the area. (AFP)

Bhopal protest

Bhopal - About 5,000 survivors of the 1984 gas leak that killed about 1,750 people demonstrated outside the Union Carbide pesticides factory here. They chanted slogans and burnt effigies to mark the sixth anniversary of the industrial disaster. (AFP)

MADRID NOTEBOOK by Juan Carlos Gumucio

Sins of the rich spice Spain's cafe gossip

MADRID'S stuffy political establishment may have survived its first serious battle with the Roman Catholic Church, but the war is far from over. The latest pastime in Madrid's cafes is guessing who the bishops were aiming at when they fired salvoes against abuse of power and overall "moral degradation".

There is consensus that the bishops were thinking quite a lot about Señor Alfonso Guerra lately. The deputy prime minister is married and his wife lives in Seville, but he lives with an attractive artist and their young daughter in Madrid. His younger brother, Juan, is thought to have amassed a small fortune overnight thanks to his good connections with the ruling Socialist Party and the still unexplained use of a rent-free government office.

Perhaps a more difficult task in the bar talk of Madrid is trying to identify the one main target of the bishops' observation that Socialists in Spain, far from narrowing the economic gap, have helped to promote a harmful admiration for luxury and hedonism. Some interpre-

ters of the Church's criticism name Isabel Preysler, the Manila-born former wife of the singer, Julio Iglesias, who now in her third marriage is wedded to Miguel Boyer, a former Socialist cabinet minister and prominent banker. Parties at their 44-room mansion never fail to make big headlines, but it is hard to compete with the attention drawn by other Socialist-favoured socialites or even their pets.

The Baroness von Thyssen, the former Miss Spain, Carmen Cervera, is fighting a legal battle involving millions of pesetas against someone who was bitten by her lapdog. Another admired name among get-rich-quick Spaniards is that of Mario Conde, the Galician banker whose spectacular rise to riches is the model for business students.

Gossip specialists say there is little doubt that the bishops were referring to the socially accepted and much publicised romance of Alberto Cortina and beautiful Marta Chávarri. Señor Cortina is perhaps better known for his now shattered marriage to Alicia Koplowitz, one of the richest women in Europe.

For a man under fire, Felipe González, the prime minister, risks discovering that he might have chosen the wrong weapons. Revelations about his secret passion for hunting may shoot down the votes of "Green" Spaniards and animal lovers.

According to Madrid's *Tribuna* magazine, Señor González is a closet hunter who has been spotted in forest reserves in Los Montes de Toledo, in spite of complicated

arrangements to keep his hobby a state secret. Reportedly, he is a helicopter-borne stalker who never

hunts with friends. Accompanied only by one bodyguard and a guide, Señor González apparently shoots like a political propagandist - with broadsides and scattershot. The magazine quoted a resident of the area as saying that one of the prime minister's recent trophies included a deer which was "pretty small".

The people of the southern village of Cieza are dressed in mourning this week after a typically Spanish tragedy in which three young would-be toreros were gunned down by the light of the full moon. The killings, in a pasture where fighting bulls were grazing, remain a mystery, but a possible cause was mentioned in whispers at the village cemetery. The *novilleros* could have violated an ancient code.

Ambitious *novilleros* have always been tempted to risk death by moonlight to practise their art in secret with full-grown fighting bulls, bred and pampered for the big-time maestros. The practice is strictly forbidden because, once a bull has been caped, it is considered too wise and dangerous for a bullfight.



arrangements to keep his hobby a state secret. Reportedly, he is a helicopter-borne stalker who never

Unique Gift
Christmas Gift

Curfews as violence in townships escalates

FROM REUTER IN THOKOZA, SOUTH AFRICA

AT LEAST 64 people have been killed in a wave of knife and gun battles for political supremacy in South African black townships.

Police said yesterday that 52 bodies had been found in Thokoza, a township 15 miles east of Johannesburg.

"We found 14 bodies between last night and this morning. By the afternoon, 38 more bodies had been picked up, making it 52 in Thokoza alone," a police spokesman, Ida van Zwell, said yesterday. Eight other bodies were found in Tembisa and four in Katlehong townships, also east of Johannesburg, since the fighting started on Sunday afternoon. The law and order minister, Adriaan Vlok, imposed a curfew yesterday on Katlehong, Thokoza, Vosloorus and Bekkersdal townships.

"There is no place in South Africa for violence or inflammatory talk. Violence can only retard the evolution of the new South Africa for which all peace-loving citizens are striving," Mr Vlok said. Military reinforcements were being called in to help the police to restore order, he said. "Now is the time for all parties involved to sit down and talk their differences and to prevent further loss of life during the approaching festive season."

All but one of the dead were blacks who had been shot and stabbed. A white security guard was shot, stabbed and set on fire in Katlehong.

In one incident a reporter witnessed a man being attacked with cane-cutting knives before being finished off with an automatic rifle by a group of assailants. Scores of other bodies lay scattered in Ntala street, one of the township's main streets. Three bodies, one decapitated, lay on the street leading to Thokoza's Phola Park squatter camp.

At the corner of one of the streets young and middle-aged men were making petrol bombs. "We are going to burn down the hotel (for migrant workers). It is the breeding ground for this slaughter," one of the youths said.

Thokoza residents sought refuge at the local hospital where more than 65 people had been admitted with gun and knife wounds. Others have fled to nearby open ground to escape fighting.

"We have nowhere to go. Although it is raining, it is better to be in an open veld so as to see the approaching attackers," one resident said.

More than 900 people have been killed in political factional fighting which has slowed negotiations on political reform between the white government and Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC).

The fighting has been mainly between township residents loyal to the ANC and migrant workers from Natal province sympathetic to the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party of Mangosuthu Buthezi, Mr Mandela's main political rival.

Thokoza, Katlehong and

Tembisa have been some of the Johannesburg townships hit by the violence since mid-August.

The latest fierce fighting began in Thokoza on Sunday afternoon when migrant hostel dwellers attacked residents of Phola Park squatter camp. Thokoza residents teamed up with the squatters to retaliate.

Opposing groups armed with AK 47 automatic rifles, hand grenades, petrol bombs, cane knives and clubs, fought running battles throughout Sunday night and yesterday morning.

The rival factions burned down shacks and attacked houses in the townships and a three-way running battle ensued between the police, Zulu migrant workers and township residents.

Hostel dwellers with white headbands marched past an army truck, but the soldiers and police in it did not disarm the men.

Mr Mandela has blamed the police for fanning the violence and siding with Inkatha during the fighting.



Township tragedy: a woman in Thokoza weeping yesterday as police loaded the body of a man on to their armoured vehicle after overnight violence between rival blacks

Delhi acts with speed to curb growing unrest

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

IN THREE weeks of power, India's minority government has put the strategic oil-rich state of Assam under direct rule, arrested six top Sikh leaders in Punjab, and secretly assembled plans for a political offensive in Kashmir. This week it is seeking a peace deal with Hindu extremists.

The government is moving with almost frantic speed to tackle terrorism and the breakdown of law and order caused by caste and religious disputes. Its plans include tougher security in Punjab, possibly involving a deployment of troops to fight terrorists killing an unprecedented 20 to 30 people a day.

A significant peace bid in Kashmir is also being considered. The government is prepared to release prominent leaders held under national security laws and may hold out the prospect of substantial self-government.

Farooq Abdullah, the discredited former chief minister of the state of Jammu and Kashmir and head of the National Conference, is closely involved in an examination of political options, much to the dismay of many Kashmiris. His administration, widely regarded as corrupt, saw the first eruption of widespread armed revolt

among the traditionally docile Kashmiris. Mr Abdullah has been consulting Rajiv Gandhi, leader of the Congress (I) party, over possible political moves in the state.

Chandra Shekhar, the prime minister, and Mian Nawaz Sharif, his new Pakistani counterpart, agreed when they met for the first time at a regional summit in the Maldives last month to stay in frequent telephone contact to avoid war over Kashmir. With war no longer likely, Delhi is ready to open peace talks with Kashmiri leaders.

There are also cautious hopes of a solution to a Hindu-Muslim dispute over a holy site in the Uttar Pradesh city of Ayodhya. The Hindu extremists who brought down the previous government are again planning to storm the Babri Masjid, a 16th-century mosque, on Thursday.

The Chandra Shekhar government hopes to avoid another bloody conflict in Ayodhya and Mr Gandhi, whose party is propping up Mr Chandra Shekhar's Janata Dal (S) grouping in parliament, has proposed a formula in which Hindus would be able to build a temple next to the mosque. Mr Gandhi believes his plan would satisfy most Hindus and Muslims.

French see rebel leader in Chad

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

AS CALM returned to the streets of Ndjamena yesterday, the youthful commander of the rebel troops that swept into the Chad capital last weekend was savouring his victory.

Idriss Deby has already received the French ambassador and a special government envoy dispatched from Paris to assess the new situation.

The French have said there is no evidence of direct Libyan involvement. But Mr Deby seems to have rejected the French view of what should happen now - a period of transition under the interim leadership of the Chad parliament. "We fought against the existing political system and its institutions," he told journalists. "The old guard cannot be involved in what happens now."

It has been confirmed that Chad's former president, Hissene Habré, previously reported dead, is safe in neighbouring Cameroon.

● Flying east: The French foreign ministry said yesterday that another evacuation flight was to take about a hundred more of its citizens out of Chad. Some 1,600 people have already left.

Bush will keep to Argentina visit

FROM REUTER IN BRASILIA

PRESIDENT Bush, at the start of a week's goodwill visit to Latin America, yesterday called on all Western hemisphere nations to work together for democracy and prosperity.

Mr Bush was greeted in Brazil by President Collor de Mello at the Planalto palace. After the welcoming formalities, the two leaders had private talks.

The opening of his five-nation tour was marred by concern over events in Argentina, where a military insurrection in Buenos Aires, the capital, prompted President Menem to declare a state of siege just two days before Mr Bush's planned arrival.

Mr Bush told Senhor de Mello that he had "no thoughts of changing my plans. I have great confidence in the security there". One American official who requested anonymity said: "It looks like an inter-military squabble."

In an address to the Brazilian Congress, Mr Bush praised

Senhor de Mello's leadership and called on all Latin American countries to continue to work to strengthen democracy and economic freedom in the hemisphere.

"To fulfil the new world's destiny, all of the Americas and the Caribbean must embark on a venture for the coming century - to create the first fully democratic hemisphere in the history of mankind, the first hemisphere devoted to the democratic ideal, to unleash the power of free peoples, free elections and free markets," he said.

With Mr Bush was his daughter, Dorothy LeBlond, who agreed to deputise for her mother after the First Lady was laid low by a minor sinus infection. The president was also accompanied by a group of economic advisers, including Nicholas Brady, his treasury secretary, and Carla Hills, the US trade representative.

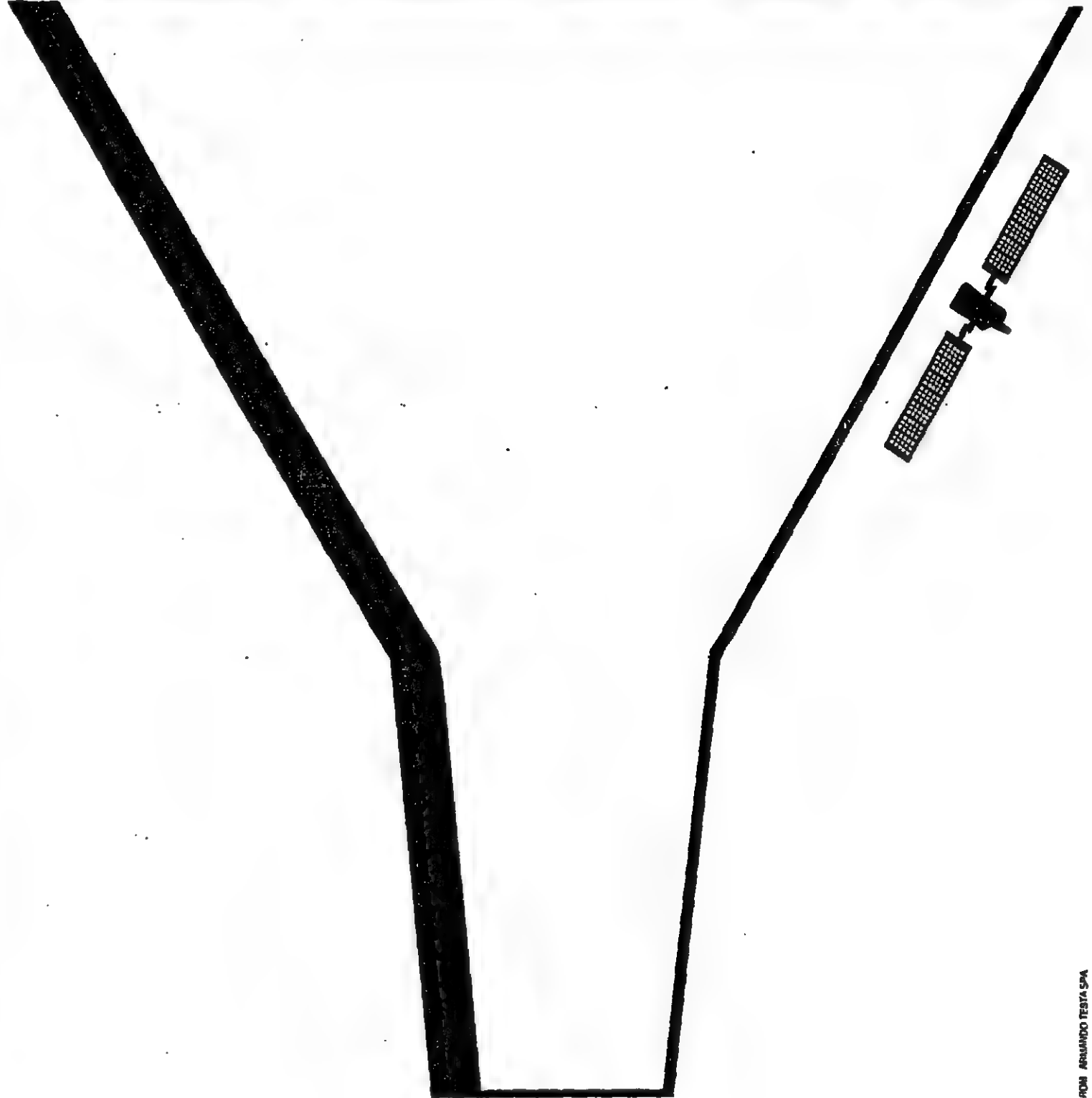
Economically, Brazil is the most important country on the 12,000-mile tour, which is also to include Uruguay, Chile and Venezuela. Brazil has the tenth biggest economy in the world and is America's third largest trading partner in the Americas, after Canada and Mexico.

Brazilian officials see the American leader's visit as a chance to try to enlist his help in dealing with the country's crushing foreign debt, which totals \$119 billion (\$61 billion). Mr Bush, in turn, hopes that the visit will show the region that he is not subordinating its concerns to the Gulf confrontation and the sweeping changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.



Collor de Mello: leader of state with huge debts

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Woodrow Wyatt

A foul deed they will rue

Some see the destruction of Mrs Thatcher by her own party in mystical terms, like a passage from Sir James Frazer's *The Golden Bough*. According to this version, Tory MPs did not know individually what they were doing, but were compelled by a Jungian "collective unconscious" to do the dreadful deed out of a primeval instinct of self-preservation. Having slaughtered their queen they then chose her favourite son as chieftain, and not the matricide who had conspired with older, jealous members of the tribe to plant the first dagger.

If that is so, and it may be, it is not the first time in history that a "collective unconscious" has made an appalling mistake, to be deeply regretted by the zombies acting under its spell when they wake to reality.

Tory MPs, and the cabinet, were dupes of a largely anti-Thatcher press, which blazoned the recent opinion poll findings, and particularly of the BBC and ITV, where the prevailing ethos has long been against her. Mr Peter Kellner, a Labour supporter, wrote in *The Independent* last Friday: "the use of polls in Mrs Thatcher's downfall should cause some concern. Time may show that Tory MPs misread the evidence and that, far from sacking a vote-loser, they have abandoned a vote-winner".

That is undoubtedly true. Mrs Thatcher scored her three great victories coming from far behind in the polls and finishing well ahead of her party in popularity, and high above all comers in the polling booths. An ascending curve had already started, and the same would have happened in the next election, when she would have faced a weak Mr Kinnock and an unconvincing Labour party. Now the outlook for the Tories is less bright.

Mr Major has admirable and attractive qualities, with the making of a fine prime minister. But, as Mr Kellner remarks, the Tories will possibly do worse at the next election "because Mrs Thatcher has proven campaign skills that Mr Major has yet to demonstrate". So far, the shock of Mrs Thatcher's shabby deposition has not fully percolated into voters' minds. When it does, there could be a strong backlash against the party responsible for removing the most innovative and successful prime minister since 1832 while in full vigour.

Mrs Thatcher restored national pride by raising Britain's punching power, in world councils, considerably above its economic weight. Travellers abroad accustomed to a growing contempt for Britain found themselves envied for having so towering a leader. Nowhere was this more true than in America. There the prevailing mood not only grew more appreciative of Britain as America's most reliable ally but depended on Mrs Thatcher to stiffen presiden-

tial resolve when tackling Moscow over nuclear arms and other issues and in crises like Kuwait.

Saddam Hussein may still not get away with it, but his chances will rise as President Bush, no longer bolstered by Mrs Thatcher, starts to look shakily. Without her, Britain may soon descend to the rank of a minor power such as the Benelux countries, France or Italy. There will be no one of sufficient stature to cope with Germany's overbearing economic triumphalism. At home the will to drive Britain into a brighter economic future will be gone.

No-one but Mrs Thatcher could have reformed the trade unions, often pushing employment ministers into advances that frightened them and which they tried to stop or delay. Mrs Thatcher forced through the great privatisations. Her own party, swallowing Harold Macmillan's "selling the family silver" theme, thought this was impossible. Now the whole country sees the right in halting the endless subsidies to inefficient nationalised industries and selling them for the benefit of taxpayers and shareholders. Without Mrs Thatcher, who dare privatise coal or British Rail?

Labour prates of elevating the status of women. Her government arranged for women to cease being chattels of the husband and to be taxed separately. Labour never did. Against determined opposition she drastically cut the number of civil servants, and would have cut more. She overcame the doubters' resistance to council house sales and spread home ownership to undreamed-of heights. The list of reforms she made in all fields - such as cutting the punitive top rates of income tax and encouraging new and leaner businesses - is immense. But the catalogue of what she still intended to do is unfinished. Without her vision and energy, it is likely to remain so for 20 years.

Mrs Thatcher made politics exciting by introducing new challenges and bringing Britain back to a belief in itself. But the forward march and the dramatic changes were too much for many, who clung to the genteel decline syndrome which involved no harsh effort, just a quiet, civilised consensus and an amiable drift downward. Already hints emanate from the new government that somehow she got it wrong, that the community charge (immeasurably fairer than the rates) must be abolished, that British interests in Europe are best defended by not defending them, and so on.

Mrs Thatcher will not stay silent if the tenets of Thatcherism are dismantled. Call it back-seat driving or what you like, but her voice will be heard loud and clear, and echoed by millions enthusiastic for her radical revolution. The voice has to be critical, will not be bitter or unresponsive of Mr Major. But the Tories will suffer.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

Excellent, the latest VAT Notes. A thundering good read from start to finish, and as spiritually uplifting as anything you could shake a censor at. Those stymied for an original Yuletide gift for literary relatives would do well to consider *Leaflet No. 809696* D8237248 VAT/DO/90: not only is it a handy one-thousandth the length of Ackroyd's *Dickens*, its form corners make it ideal for removing any shards of turkey still maddeningly lurking between the Boxing Day molar. And best of all, it's free - provided that you have kept up your subscription to the Customs & Excise Book Club by sending them 15% of your income every quarter.

I have had the good fortune to be a member since 1973, and have therefore received hundreds of these exegetical supplements to *The Book of VAT*. I have not, of course, been permitted to see the book itself, for it is kept, thrice locked and scotly-girt, in that remote forest clearing to which Brigham Excise and his followers carried it after the death of Joseph Customs (*sons of oriole* of the Church of Latter-Day Taxmen), but I have been able to glean some notion of the holy text from these regular amendments. That it must be comprehensive of all that ever was since the beginning of the world is irrefutable: if the torrent of regulatory addenda can take account of such diverse minutiae as the importation of non-ferrous prostheses for ornamental (excluding clockwork) wallabies, and the exact status of purgative gherkins for ritual gatherings at which not fewer than nine of those present are full-time members of the armed forces, then it is obvious that the Book itself misses nothing. Its eye is on 115% of the sparrow.

Are the leaflets useful? It is a question as irrelevant as it is improper. They are no more or less useful than the Book of Revelations. They are not there to be useful, but to awe and mystify. They are put together by theologians concerned not merely with the number of angels able to dance on the head of a pin, but with whether the dance may be construed as educational within the meaning

of the Act, enabling the pin to be zero-rated, or whether it is an entertainment, rendering the pin liable to an impost of 15%.

In this latest leaflet, for example, we read that "cigarette cards, which were formerly zero-rated, have been standard-rated since 1 September 1990". This is a world which had fully believed that cigarette cards had not been issued since Wally Hammond was No 39 in a series and Mickey Rooney was even shorter than he subsequently became. Nor was that the only window opened upon a world of which, without VAT Notes, we should know nothing; how many of you, for instance, realised that only the transport of passengers in a ship carrying not fewer than 12 persons was zero-rated? Does it not give a new poignancy to the cry of "Any more for the Skyline?" to appreciate that, should he dare to go round the bay with only 11 on board, the hapless skipper could well find himself clapped in Her Majesty's irons the moment his returning wellie touched the shingle?

Useful to skippers? You would have to ask a skipper, and stand out of the way. As with all holy writ, the stuff is patently there to make his life more complicated. In the hope that wrestling with its implications will be good for his soul. That is why I approach Verse 9 of the latest leaflet with due caution: there is a possibility that it is applicable to, among other tradesmen, purveyors of light prose to the carriage trade, but though one hand offers hope, the other offers penalty.

For Verse 9 states that "from 1 August 1990, protective boots designed for non-industrial use are standard-rated". The implications of this are obvious: it means that if the price of protective boots designed for non-industrial use now embraces a 15% levy, I can claim back that tax on any footwear designed to guard my feet against things falling on them while I sit seated at the typewriter. This would knock nearly twelve quid off my new calf Oxfords.

Worth trying it on with the Customs & Excise scholars? Certainly. All one needs is a little faith.

Democracy defers to discipline

Mary Dejevsky in Moscow sees the hardline star in the ascendant, but cautions against writing off reforms

On the day after Mikhail Gorbachev replaced his liberal-minded interior minister with a Communist party traditionalist and battle-hardened general, nothing could be simpler than to talk of a retreat from reform, or even its abandonment. That assessment may yet prove justified. So far, however, the grounds for gloom are few, and such a judgment is premature.

Mr Gorbachev is a politician of the centre, a seeker after compromise. He does not spend hours of his precious time watching the proceedings of the Soviet parliament simply to make timely interventions. In recent weeks he has spent four full days there - plus visits to the Russian parliament and a Moscow Communist party meeting - listening, gauging the mood. He appears to have concluded what others have done the mood has shifted significantly to what in Soviet political geography is called the right.

After a troubled summer and with a hungry winter ahead, Soviet opinion wants the restoration of discipline more than it wants additional freedom and democracy. The shift is nowhere more striking than at the Russian Congress of People's Deputies. In May

it was balanced within a handful of votes and eventually voted for Boris Yeltsin as president. Now it is weighted approximately 60:40 against the radicals.

The interior minister, Vadim Bakatin, was the first significant victim of this change, and there will be others. Mr Bakatin, as the minister responsible for law and order, was particularly exposed. His reputation as a liberal allowed people to see him as soft on crime and on nationalist separatism. He was also blamed for the failure to implement the presidential decree on disarming and outlawing unauthorised armed groups. Given the virtual guerrilla war being waged in parts of the Transcaucasus, it could not be implemented, but Mr Bakatin is widely held to be guilty of neglect.

In recent weeks, Bakatin gained notoriety for suggesting that the interior ministry troops, which have been deployed in many ethnic disputes, might become the responsibility of the individual Soviet republics. In devolutionist

eyes, the proposal had the merit of giving the republics responsibility to keep their own houses in order. For the central ministry, the proposal also had the merit of removing from its supervision an unpopular area of activity.

But the idea did not find favour with the predominantly conservative Soyuz (union) group of parliamentarians, who also blame Mr Bakatin for the appearance of Kalashnikov rifles in the hands of self-appointed customs officials in the Baltic states and for the centre's refusal, or inability, to halt the dismissal of ethnic Russian police chiefs in non-Russian areas. Mr Bakatin was the easiest of targets, his slightly rumpled intellectual appearance and easy manner making him all the more unpopular in those circles where discipline and formality are prized.

To see Mr Bakatin's removal exclusively as a blow to reform would, however, be premature. If anything has been clear since Mr Gorbachev promised a far-reaching reshuffle two weeks ago, it is

the fierceness of the battle being waged behind the scenes. Mr Gorbachev, moreover, is one of the shrewdest and wildest politicians in the business. Rather than surrender to pressure from conservatives, he may envisage a little horse-trading: a toughened interior ministry team, perhaps, in return for some more reforms on the economic side; the removal of Mr Bakatin, perhaps, in return for acquiescence in the appointment of Eduard Shevardnadze, the liberal-minded foreign minister, as his deputy president.

Until the reshuffle is complete, its meaning cannot be discerned. But nor can the precise political significance of the moves at the interior ministry. Certainly, the message being conveyed to the Soviet parliament and to the public is that the disciplinarians are moving in.

Again, the appointments of Boris Pugo, hitherto chairman of the Communist party's disciplinary body, the central commission, and General Boris Gromov, com-

mander of the Kiev military region, may not simply be moves to placate a democratised party and a restless army respectively. Mr Pugo is a long-standing Gorbachev ally. Whether this was an alliance of convenience or a convergence of minds is uncertain, but Mr Gorbachev manoeuvred hard to ensure Pugo's re-election to his party post at the Congress in July. Nor is Mr Pugo necessarily a "hardliner". Discipline and ideological orthodoxy are not the same thing.

The significance of General Gromov's appointment is also as yet uncertain. He brings a strong personality, political ambition, a measure of popularity and an army uniform to the interior ministry. Whether he has been promoted or demoted, however, depends on what he is given to do. If he replaces Yuri Shatalin as commander of the interior ministry troops, his star has risen. If, however, he is an additional post, with special responsibility for combating crime, he has exchanged a promising military power base for one of the most difficult portfolios in the government - and Mr Gorbachev has neutralised another possible threat to his rule.

Have the greens blossomed only to fade and wither?

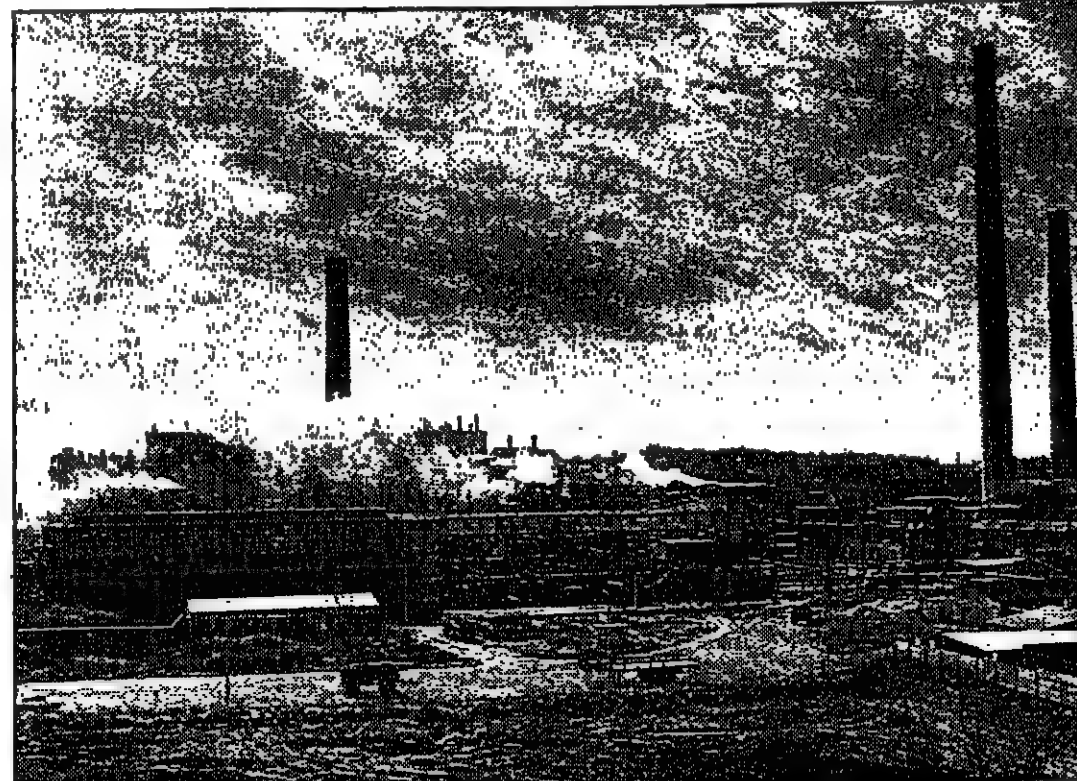
The outcome of the German election is a warning to environmentalists everywhere to avoid cliquishness and squabbling, writes Daniel Johnson

After a decade as the biggest and certainly the most self-important political party in the European Green movement, nemesis has finally overtaken the German Greens. In the first federal election of the reunified German state on Sunday, the swashbuckling, hairy, dungaree-sporting, teless and infuriatingly self-righteous *Grünen* failed to reach the 5 per cent threshold below which German parties languish in obscurity.

Only in the polluted wilderness of the new eastern provinces did ecology, civil rights, disarmament and other typically green issues still seem to voters to be matters of pressing concern. Yet even there, the Christians, pacifists and ecologists who played such an honourable part in the overthrow of the Honecker regime and gained a modest seven seats on Sunday were not members of *die Grünen* (they campaigned as "Alliance 90"). They had merely agreed an electoral pact with the older West German party, and did not share in its downfall.

Does the defeat of the German Greens signal the end, not merely of a very German dream of an unpolluted utopia, but also of the European movement of which *die Grünen* were, in the words of Tom Burke, director of the Green Alliance in Britain, "the anchor"? Will Green politics survive the 1990s, as recession and refugees, the end of the cold war and revived nationalism apparently eclipse the environment?

The past is in this case a poor guide to the future, since the German Greens emerged at a specific moment in German history. At its inception in 1979, the new party was given a symbolic



Pollution, typified by Bitterfeld in eastern Germany, is now a matter of mainstream concern

blessing at a mass meeting in West Berlin by Rudi Dutschke, hero of the student radicals of the 1960s. The atmosphere was apocalyptic, and Dutschke was soon to die from the bullet which an assassin's gun had lodged in his brain years before. Ecology was only the lowest common denominator. Frustration with the limitations of a social democratic government and fear of a Nazi revival if the Christian Democratic right ever returned to power combined with a deep hostility towards West Germany's parliamentary system, "Americanised" culture and commitment to NATO.

As the Schmidt government disintegrated in 1982-83, the Greens capitalised on the campaign against the deployment of cruise and Pershing missiles. Petra Kelly became a heroine of the left all over Europe. Her party leapt the 5 per cent hurdle in the 1983 election, and in 1987 (still profiting from weak leadership in the SPD) reached a peak of 43 seats. In the state governments of Hesse and West Berlin, the party formed coalitions with the Social Democrats, and there was much talk of a

"Red-Green" government at national level. But when they were offered a research foundation on the model of those run by the three established parties, the Greens typically failed to agree on whether to accept it.

Decline had set in long before reunification dished the Greens once and for all. Though a few members of the party's moderate "Realo" wing (such as Joschka Fischer and Otto Schily) became respected politicians, the maximalist "Fundis" wing always managed to spike their jets. Led by a feminist aristocrat, Julia (von) Dierhoff, the Fundis drove people like Schily to leave.

Having proclaimed themselves the representatives of future generations, the German Greens never consolidated their appeal for the youth of the present. They passed into history, their collective leadership squabbling amongst itself to the last.

How relevant is this experience likely to be to countries like Britain, where the Green party came to prominence only a decade after its German counterpart, at last year's European elections?

Like the socialist and communist internationalists of the past, the Greens have a powerful drive to transcend national boundaries. The ecological problems they address are rarely limited to single countries, and one of the lasting legacies of the German Greens will be the elevation of environmental activism to the notice of European Community institutions.

No EC member state is now able to persist in environmental policies much out of step with its neighbours. Thanks to the initial impetus provided by the electoral success of an environmental party in a country as important as Germany, which focused diffuse public concern across the continent, bureaucratic mechanisms came into existence which gave momentum to the "greening" of industry and government.

But the practical effect of such internationalism has been limited by the amateurishness and cliquishness of many Green politicians. Lacking the collective discipline and solidarity of which both communists and fascists were sometimes capable, the European Green parties have

never aroused the transcontinental emotional sympathy which is achieved by non-party organisations such as Greenpeace.

Tom Burke rejects the vulgar Marxist theory that politics and ideology are mere functions of the economic cycle, so he disputes the view that the end of the boom of the late 1980s spells doom for environmentalism. He believes that the Green parties have only ever been the impermanent and symbolic "surface layer" of a far more enduring shift in public mentality. "Green parties have always been more religious than political," he argues.

Mr Burke claims that, although there is a connection between affluence and interest in the environment, such concern may be non-political. He points out that membership of non-political environmental groups in Britain (some 3 million) is much larger than the maximum "Green vote" yet achieved here (2.3 million).

The next phase of European history could see a potentially dangerous appropriation of the anti-modern, utopian aspects of Green ideology by spokesmen of the new urban underclasses, which may be reinforced by mass immigration from the east. Yet in Germany itself, which is both the most Green and the most exposed to the economic and social disruption flowing from the east, the danger of Green totalitarianism now seems remote.

National Socialism likewise embraced a wide spectrum of anti-Western and anti-capitalist thought that was not specifically Hitlerian (think of Martin Heidegger), but that trauma may well have inoculated the country against messianic movements of all kinds. The aftermath of communism hardly seems a propitious time for new prophets to arise, even if there is a slump.

Yet green politics undoubtedly has an inherent tendency towards extremes: the absolute right of the individual to enjoy purity in everything, and to reject the modern world when it is impure. The German Greens will be seen by historians as the catalysts of a new change in European consciousness, but the absorption of the bulk of their following into the more conventional party system will be unlamented.

Key words that point to a move

As Michael Heseltine begins to grapple with poll tax reform, one of the first changes he may have to make is in his ministerial and advisory line-up. One junior minister, David Heathcoat-Amory, has already moved to the Department of Energy, and environment department officials now expect a further switching of jobs within the department so that those who in the past have resolutely defended the tax will speak on less contentious areas of the DoE's many responsibilities.

After five years out of government, Heseltine so far seems intent on doing things largely on his own. Despite his debt to Keith Hampson and Michael Mates, who managed his leadership challenge, he has not appointed a parliamentary private secretary, nor has he recruited special advisers to replace Patrick Rock, who joins Chris Patten at Central Office.

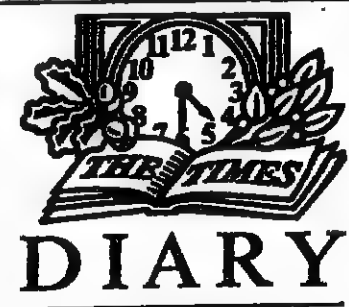
Michael Portillo has serious difficulties, given his previous record, but most speculation surrounds the position of Robert Key, promoted to the ministerial ranks within the DoE, with special responsibility for the poll tax, when Patrick Nicholls resigned during the Tory conference in October. Heseltine is said to be closely examining the text of an interview with the *Avon Advertiser* during the leadership election in which Key said of Heseltine and John Major: "Neither of the candidates have the qualities to deal with the difficult economy at home, a complicated situation in Europe, or the crisis in the Gulf."

What will rouse Heseltine's ire even more is Key's repetition of the charge that Mrs Thatcher levelled at him: "Mr Heseltine is rather impetuous, as we have seen in the past, and a large number of my (Salisbury) constituents are unforgiving about him forcing Mrs Thatcher out." Key must hope Heseltine is more forgiving.

● Apart from John Major, what other members of the great and the good went to Rutlish grammar school? *Whitbread? No many, it seems.* The only notable contemporary of the new prime minister who has so far come to light are an unlikely pair: the founder of the *Happy Eater* chain of fast-food restaurants and Gerry Cottle of big top fame. *Strangely, the old boy whose father did a circus act has ended up running the country. The old boy who now runs a circus came from a family of stock-brokers. The classless society?*

● Olivier unveiled
L Olivier's family - four of whom are involved in a new production of *Time and The Conways* opening at the Old Vic tomorrow - has finally agreed to authorise an Olivier biography. Son Richard, who is directing his mother, Joan Plowright, and sisters Tamsin and Julie-Kate in the Priestley revival, says that Plowright has agreed to make available to a suitable biographer all of Olivier's private diaries, letters and annotated scripts.

"I had never kept an intimate diary but we have all his appointment diaries and other papers in storage," he says. "It could be a few years before we see the book. My mother also intends to write her memoirs."



The family has taken a long time to agree to an authorised biography. After Lord Olivier died 18 months ago a number of writers sought permission to start work on a book, but all were rebuffed. No one has yet been chosen, but competition is bound to be intense.

Meanwhile Richard, who is 29, insists that family tensions have been remarkably absent from rehearsals for tomorrow night's opening in what he says was always his father's favourite theatre. "We have a wonderful shorthand and can be honest and frank with each other," he says. "As for my mother, I have been pleasantly surprised. She does exactly what she's told."

● Evil empire?
During his visit to Britain starting today, Ronald Reagan will be disappointed not to take tea, as planned, with Mrs Thatcher, at Number Ten. He will be brave the south London traffic to visit her at Dulwich. Instead, on Thursday, Mrs Thatcher will call on Reagan at his suite at Claridges to discuss the good old days.

His disappointment may at least be offset by the unusual

honour, for an American, of being invited to join the all-male Saints and Sinners club, made up of the elite of the Lord's Taverners. Membership is restricted to exactly 100. There is currently one vacancy, which the club is expected to offer Reagan when he addresses it at a Savoy dinner on Friday.

Members are evenly divided between 50 saints and 50 sinners. So which is Reagan? As far as the Lord's Taverners are concerned, anyone who believes a bowler is a pitcher and thinks that cover point is more properly called first base can surely only be a sinner.



● Biggest handicap
Irish women's rights campaigners, delighted by the inauguration in Dublin yesterday of Mary Robinson as the country's first woman president, are less pleased that she has been denied a privilege granted her predecessor, Dr Paddy Hillery.

When first elected in 1976, Hillery - who reputedly had the lowest golf handicap of any world leader - was immediately offered honorary membership of Port-

marnock, Ireland's most exclusive golf club. Explaining its failure to do the same for Mrs Robinson, the club says that Hillery was a member before he became president, and that the rules have no provision for granting honorary membership to non-members. Most clubs have a similar policy, it claims.

The explanation cuts little ice with the equals lobby, which considers that Mrs Robinson - and, by implication, all Irish women - have been slighted. With Mrs Robinson's support, Monica Barnes of the *Dail Women's Affairs* committee, has written to every golf club in Ireland demanding equal membership rights. Portmarnock, meanwhile, says the new president is welcome to a round whenever she wants, but only as a guest.

● Record tribute
London managed to pay a 90th birthday tribute to Aaron Copland shortly before his death only because of the last-minute intervention of *The Times* City. With no sponsor in sight, the City of London Chamber Orchestra was on the brink of cancelling a series of concerts in his honour planned for St John's, Smith Square, in September. The orchestra contacted *The Times*, and a short piece here produced the desired result: a £7,500 donation from an anonymous New York law firm.

The orchestra invited Copland to the concerts but his failing health kept him at home in New York. Instead, tapes were sent to him which, the orchestra hopes, offered him moments of pleasure in the weeks before he died.



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ELECTING CITY MAYORS

The reform of the constitutional landscape of England and Wales is back on the agenda, forced there by the fiasco of the poll tax. Attention is once again focused on the government of the cities. Michael Heseltine, already signalling his radicalism as environment secretary, is pondering the restoration of county borough status to large towns and cities. He and a number of ministers are also in favour of elected mayors, to reduce party domination of local councils, increase public participation in elections and raise the profile of local government generally. Turnouts in those democracies, such as France and the United States, which have elected mayors, are roughly double those in most British cities.

Ever since the great municipal innovations of the 19th century, the reform of local government has been bedevilled by party politics. The sequence of research, enquiry and shambolic decision initiated by the Redcliffe-Maud commission in 1969 led four years later to the submerging of supposedly left-wing cities in their surrounding, supposedly Tory, county areas. The new "metropolitan counties" created round Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield, Birmingham and others were abolished in 1986. But other cuckoos remained in the nest, including the unloved pseudo-counties such as Avon and Humberside and county "districts" the size of Cardiff and Portsmouth. Until recently, Tory radicals were plotting the dismantling of the entire county structure and devolving all sub-Whitehall government to the 369 district councils. So drastic a break with historical loyalties would have been even more unpopular than Peter Walker's 1970s reforms. Sanity may have returned with Mr Heseltine's arrival at the environment department. There is no point in a unit of local government which does not correspond to the local electorate's sense of geographical identity. Big or small, cities are cities and counties are counties, and if diverse sizes mean a diversity of service quality, so be it. The biggest cities were given back full county borough powers in 1986 and the case is now strong for doing the same to towns above, say, 200,000 population. If that means the end of Avon and Humberside — and even the return of Rutland

and the East Riding — so much the better. Reform, however, cannot rest there. The reason for the partial collapse of urban government in the 1970s was the seizure of its out-dated constitutional structure by corrupt political groups, some in the pocket of property developers, some in that of public sector unions. If cities are to get back full responsibility for planning, education and transport, two conditions must be satisfied.

The first is that a system of local finance must be in place that clearly relates spending to local taxation, perhaps as Ralf Dahrendorf suggests in a letter on this page, with some discretion as to how. The successor to the poll tax, which should be based on property value and should embrace businesses, must be seen to be levied on all householders, tenants as well as owner occupiers and landlords. Councils should be compelled to publicise their annual rate increase or decrease, and specific capital projects should be subject to local referendum, as in America.

The second condition is that the hold of political parties over local council membership should be weakened. Elected mayors would not end such a hold, but would personalise elections, increase public awareness and offer a chance to outsiders to enter the field. Such outsiders might not win, but might sufficiently jolt the existing parties to reduce their tendency to cronyism and extremism.

The mechanism by which mayors would exert authority would need, and should get, further study. They might operate outside the existing structure of executive council committees, being largely ceremonial but with small budgets. Or they could enjoy full tax-raising and executive functions, with council committees having only advisory status. Given the restricted discretion left to local councils nowadays, there seems little reason not to go the latter route, to plenipotentiary mayors subject only to the need to get the annual rate through their councils.

Either way, the demoralised legions of local government throughout the United Kingdom are urgently in need of a vote of confidence from central government. Mr Heseltine's ideas merit wide discussion followed by swift action.

FIVE MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT

Trade ministers from 107 countries have until Friday to save the world's trading system from disintegration. Yesterday they began the final session of the Uruguay round of trade talks with protectionist farmers baying at the doors. So likely is collapse that Brussels talk is of stopping the clocks until after the new year. Such diplomatic legerdemain would be downright irresponsible. Agreement is urgent.

The United States appears to be heading for a recession. Economic stagnation, there and elsewhere, will increase protectionist pressures. Yet a deal would provide a trade stimulus to the world economy. Carla Hills, the US trade representative, calculates that agreement could add \$4,000 billion to global output over the next ten years.

The world is accustomed to trade talks which drag on, to false ultimatums and artificial deadlines. This time, however, delay really could mean disaster. The negotiations are so complex that without political decisions to remove the main obstacles to agreement this week there will simply not be time to produce final texts by March 1. On that date, the "fast track" authority granted to the American government by the US Congress, which commits congress to accept or reject the deal without amendment, expires. There is no prospect that it will be renewed.

Instead of criticising American legislators for holding the world to ransom, free traders should bless them. The authority of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) is threatened by the proliferation of non-tariff barriers such as "voluntary" export restraint agreements, the growth of regional trading blocs and bilateral deals. Moreover, GATT rules exclude whole sectors, such as agriculture and services. Agreement would remedy that, equipping GATT for the modern world.

The traditional free-traders, the United States and Western Europe, are to blame for today's deadlock. They are quarrelling over two key sectors, trade in agriculture and in services. As a result, the industrialised nations are warring on their pledge, at the Houston summit last year, to make the Uruguay round "the highest priority on the international

economic agenda".

The European Community has pooled its sovereignty in these talks, agreeing to let the European Commission negotiate on behalf of the Twelve — with disastrous results so far. The commission's hands have been tied by French and German refusal to accept radical cuts in farm subsidies for fear of dismantling the Common Agricultural Policy. The EC offer falls absurdly short of other countries' demands. The EC argues that the principle is what really matters, and that it has taken a revolutionary step by agreeing to subject the market-rigging games of the CAP to international scrutiny. But principles butter no parsnips. On any assessment, the size of the EC's offer is not enough.

Unless it does better, the round will collapse. The responsibility for breaking this deadlock lies with Chancellor Helmut Kohl. His determination to keep the farm vote in Sunday's elections lay behind the Franco-German axis blocking a realistic deal.

But the Americans could set a virtuous circle going by making concessions of their own. The American commitment to free trade has been suspect since Congress added "crown" clauses to American trade legislation in 1988. Under these, the US may impose sanctions against governments which it labels "protectionist". Its attitude to the Uruguay round, constructive in agriculture, has moreover been much less so when it comes to services. Here, America has kowtowed to its civil aviation, shipping and telecommunications lobbies. Washington now says that in these sectors, it will not accept the GATT obligation not to discriminate between trading partners.

Once a deal had been done on these two issues, overall agreement would not be far away. With the trade ministers bogged down, heads of government must step in. And here, Britain's "mid-Atlantic" stance, often criticised within the EC, places it in a powerful position to press for a creative compromise. John Major should grab this heaven-sent opportunity to establish himself on the international stage.

HOLY SMOKE

Edward VI ordered Holy Island to be fortified against marauding Scots, hence its romantic 16th-century castle. Stone walls, unfortunately, are not strong enough to keep out marauding English big game. Holy Island, otherwise known as Lindisfarne, may be about to lose its volunteer fire brigade because the county council by a majority of 11 says so. But not if human nature has its way.

At high tide the island's mile-long causeway is covered by the sea. The county council has apparently not considered a regulation forbidding the tide to come in, but its alternatives are hardly less. When the water is under water, professional firemen will be flown in by RAF or some other helicopter, at low tide they will drive the 15 miles from Berwick, the nearest Northumberland town. No doubt they will arrive by chuggingly trailing streamers of red tape.

Holy Island's eight amateur fire fighters have their own fire engine and have put out 11 fires in the last five years. Such are the penalties for trying to be helpful, they have been told to disband because they are not trained to the standards required by the new Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations. The county council's decision is as silly as forbidding first-aiders to attend sprained ankles because they lack degrees in brain surgery.

Presumably anyone who so much as reaches for a bucket of water to douse a smouldering rubbish bin will be hauled off to Berwick's

ancient prison. Local pride being what it is, the island people are fighting to save their fire brigade. Their main hope is that enough volunteers can be found to undergo the extra training necessary to satisfy the regulations. This submission to the letter of the law does them credit. But if these tactics fail there is still an alternative.

Lindisfarne, with its famous ruined priory, knows about monks and monasteries, having been home for many a saint and hermit. Its people need to remember the story of the monk who liked his pipe. He asked his prior if it was acceptable for him to smoke while he said his prayers. The prior was appalled at his irreverence. The holy man prayed for inspiration, and the answer came. He duly went to the abbot and asked: was he allowed to say a prayer while he smoked? The abbot congratulated him on his piety.

If all else fails, let Northumberland county council make such arrangements as it thinks fit. Let the local firemen stand down, and the helicopters take over. Then after a decent interval — and perhaps a few incinerated residences — a local worthy might step forward with a novel suggestion. Why not let the island people organise a "voluntary fire-fighting" service, to tackle such fires as are within their capacity? What an obvious idea, the county councillors will say, what an admirable public spirit! What a saving to the rates (which will be back by then). The people of Lindisfarne can catch each other's eye, and wink.

Fresh thoughts on the poll tax

From the Warden of St Antony's College, Oxford

Sir, In his useful survey of "poll tax solutions" (report, December 1), Mr Tony Travers lists seven possibilities but leaves out one option which seems the most obvious to anyone who knows what happens elsewhere in the world: why does central government have to determine how local government raises its revenues?

Would it not be more appropriate to leave it to local authorities to determine the desirable and acceptable mix of community charges with property taxes and other sources? Moreover, would not such power in the hands of local authorities help devolve power ("subsidiarity") while increasing genuine accountability?

Might it not even lead, after unavoidable initial blips, to a "market" answer to the vexing question of local government finance in that authorities would discover by (perhaps painful) experience the most plausible revenue mix?

Yours sincerely,
RALF DAHRENDORF,
St Antony's College,
Oxford.

December 1.

From Mr D. R. Heginbotham

Sir, I suspect that this administration will deal with collecting the community charge against the determined opposition of non-payers not only by extending the categories of those persons exempt from the tax (excluding, for example, student nurses) but also by "forgiving" the liability of those hard-nosed individuals who have failed to pay up this year. The result will be a higher level of charge for those of us who have readily paid, to make up this year's lost revenue.

There are precedents for this kind of generous treatment for non-payers already set by the post-1979 Conservative administration. Thus, for example, in 1982 the Inland Revenue, at the government's behest, "forgave" millions of pounds of unpaid income tax due from print-industry casual workers, provided they agreed to pay tax in the future.

Probably the worst fraud of all committed by the Conservative government was the virtual "gifting" of council-owned housing to their sitting tenants — housing which had been largely paid for by those of us who, by careful saving and budgeting, had bought our own housing and had for years been mulcted in exorbitant domestic rates.

We thought we were paying towards the housing stock for the benefit of the less well-off of future generations, not to provide tax-free capital gains for the profiteer.

Yours faithfully,
D. R. HEGINBOTHAM,
The Millstone, 11 Mill Race,
Stansfeld Abbots,
Ware, Hertfordshire,
November 28.

From Mr Sidney Z. Manches

Sir, The main objection to returning to the old rating system, but based on the market value of properties instead of their hypothetical rental value, is the huge task of valuing millions of properties, the many years it would take, and how to phase it in the

meanwhile. I suggest that the old estate duty office's method could solve this problem.

Each occupier would estimate his own valuation of his property and the rates percentage would be calculated on that. In due course, the rating authority officials would decide the value, and the amount of rates paid in the previous years would be adjusted. Under-payments would be registered as a charge on the property, with interest thereon not tax-deductible.

Over-payments would be refunded, plus interest also free of tax. Few people would deliberately under-value. Many might welcome the tax-free interest earned by an over-value.

Perhaps I should declare an interest. Before the introduction of the charge, my rates were just over £3,000 per annum. My poll tax this year was approximately one-seventh of that.

Yours truly,
SIDNEY Z. MANCHES,
63 North Gate,
Prince Albert Road, NW8,
November 28.

From Mr David Kemp, QC

Sir, Since the cost of local services depends on the number of persons in a house rather than on the size or quality of the house itself, I suggest that the rate payable by the rateable occupier should contain a second element based upon the number of adult persons living in the house. A detailed enquiry such as you propose (leading article, November 28) could decide how that element is to be determined and whether a statutory ceiling should be imposed on it.

A change of this nature would be difficult to introduce before the next general election. In the meantime, temporary financial adjustments can be made to meet obvious hardship or injustice. The commitment to a radical change of this nature would be attractive to the electorate and would, as you say, demonstrate that Mr Major was not the prisoner of previous policies.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID KEMP,
A Raymond Buildings,
Gray's Inn, WC1,
November 28.

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Yours faithfully,
DAVID KEMP,
A Raymond Buildings,
Gray's Inn, WC1,
November 28.

From Mr Douglas J. McBean

Sir, I was one of those who campaigned in local government elections last May, arguing passionately in favour of the community charge, in which I firmly believe.

The community charge is not what is at issue here — it is surely fair that everyone who utilises the services provided by local government should contribute towards the cost. No, what is at issue is the effectiveness and productivity of local government.

The government has for 1991-2 generously increased local councils' standard spending assessments. Local councilors should take great care to ensure that within these spending targets they provide a cost-effective service. If not, Mr Heseltine should tackle that problem, not the community charge itself.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS J. McBEAN,
24 Pampas Close,
Colchester, Essex,
November 29.

Adoption from abroad

From Mr N. J. T. Butler

Sir, The reference in Sally Brompton's article, "How far can we go to adopt?" (Life and Times, November 7) to Hampshire's policy on inter-country adoption was out of date and does not reflect current practice.

Recognising that an increasing number of couples want to adopt children from overseas, we have set up services which will protect the children's interests, and give prospective adopters information and advice on all aspects of inter-country adoption. Home study reports are done at an early stage by specialist social workers who also liaise with the Department of Health.

Moreover, Hampshire Social Services are also involved actively in trying to help children in Romania. Three members of staff are currently part of a multi-disciplinary team working in Ungaraz with children "written off" by the Ceausescu regime. The team is helping the Romanians improve assessment techniques and provide treatment, stimulation and rehabilitation for the children.

Yours sincerely,
TERRY BUTLER,
(Director of Social Services),
Hampshire County Council,
The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire,
November 22.

Notwithstanding

From Mr R. T. Oerton

Sir, Your leading article (November 30) about lawyers' "gobbledygook" is both right and wrong.

Yes, it is desirable and (nearly always) possible to avoid antiquated phraseology and to draft in language which is (or at least seems) comprehensible to non-lawyers. The lawyers' organisation CLARE is dedicated to the use of plain English in legal writing.

But one has to distinguish between complexity which is avoidable and complexity which serves only to reflect the complexity of the law which, in its turn, serves only to reflect the complexity of late 20th-century civilisation. To blame the legal draftsman for this is like killing the messenger who brings the bad news.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number. (071) 782 5046.

Putting a price on opera stars

From Mr Michael D. Varcoe-Cocks

Sir, I hope that the Royal Opera House's figures in John Higgins's article (Saturday Review, November 17) on the costs of mounting the recent new production of *Attila the Hun* will help show that opera in a 2,000-seater house is not only labour-intensive but actually modestly cost-effective.

It is, however, amazing that an organisation which relies for its continued existence on a large, if insufficient and ungenerous, subsidy from taxpayers can so steadfastly refuse to publish details of fees paid to the stars (singers, conductors, producers) who, in the case of *Attila*, account for 26 per cent of the budget but less than 3 per cent of the people involved.

The secret mystique which surrounds opera-singers' fees serves only to feed already over-inflated egos and is inappropriate where public money is and public accountability ought to be involved. Most opera-goers would feel Pavarotti is worth many times his rumoured nightly fee of £10,000, but how many mediocre singers have their fees bolstered and protected by the fact that their public have no idea how much they earn?

These figures, drawn from the *Attila* article, shows an interesting range of average individual earnings:

	A	B	C
Stars	2,578	26	3
Costume	328	16	15
Other artists	143	19	41
Production	134	10	23
Administration	32	2	18

A — per cent of costs

C — per cent of numbers

Although the "stars" can perform only two or three times a week, their income is boosted by

recordings, promotions, advertising, etc.

Yours faithfully,

M. D. VARCOE-COCKS,

5 Brackenbury Road, W6,

November 26.

From Mr Ewen Balfour

Sir, Kenneth Warren's criticism of the cost of Covent Garden's production of *Attila the Hun* (letter, November 28) is an argument not for cheaper opera, but for none. Opera is always expensive and is always subsidised one way or another. The Royal Opera House receives half the subsidy per performance of any publicly-funded opera house in Europe.

Opera gets only 45 per cent of the total Arts Council grant, the other 55 per cent goes to the two Royal Ballet companies. Between them the three companies give 450 performances a year, at Covent Garden, throughout the UK, and overseas. Every independent enquiry into our affairs has confirmed our cost-efficiency.

The Royal Opera House now receives only 8.7 per cent of the total Treasury grant to the Arts Council, compared with 12.1 per cent in 1984-5. And subsidy over the same period has declined from 55 per cent of our income to about 35 per cent. If opera and ballet of international stature are to survive at Covent Garden — and it is in London's and the nation's interest that they should — these facts need to be understood, and these trends reversed.

Yours,

EWEN BALFOUR

(Director of Public Affairs),

Royal Opera House,

Covent Garden, WC2,

November 29.

From Colonel Robert Wilson

RAMC (ret)

Sir, I share Colonel Hector's

worries (November 19) about the

adequacy of medical support during

the present Middle East crisis.

However, I take issue with his

assertion that military hospitals have

"never before" been closed

down at the approach of large-

scale war. I was serving at the

Cambridge Military Hospital in

1956, at the time of the Suez crisis,

when the commanding officer

called us together on a Sunday

morning to outline the plan for the

hospital. By the middle of that

afternoon, the number of patients

had been reduced from over 500

to less than 100, by early dis-

charge, or transfer to other units.

We were then prepared to accept

casualties from the battle zone,

which in the event did not occur.

There were few manpower prob-

lems in those days of National

Service.

One can only speculate, with

some regret, how different the

scenario might have been had our

American cousins then supported

us with the energy and enthusiasm

we do them today.

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT WILSON,

Little Highclere,

Higher Warberry Road,

Torquay, Devon,

November 19.

From Mr S. Blair Southern

Sir, Brigadier Cordingley has

sought to warn the British public

of the potential casualties which

will occur from a war in the Gulf

(report, November 30). What

assessment is the government

making on potential casualties

outside the Iraq-Kuwait borders,

should the Iraqis resort to nuclear

or chemical terrorism in the rest

of the world?

I fear the possible consequences

of military conflict have not been

thought through.

Yours faithfully,

S. BLAIR SOUTHERN,

160 Downs Road, South

Wootton,

Winchester, Hampshire,

November 30.

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Radical shirt-sleeve chic

Cufflinks have always offered designers a small-scale canvas.

Liz Smith selects a range

Cufflinks or jewelled buttons have been in fashion ever since men stopped flourishing flourishes of lace at the wrists that were held together with cuff "strings". In the 19th century, when plain double cuffs became too heavily starched to be closed with buttons, cufflinks were established as essentials in every gentleman's wardrobe.

The two linked discs soon became the canvas for all manner of decorative flourishes, from a simple button rimmed and centred with jewels, to custom-made cufflinks displaying portraits of pets in enamel, club colours, pheasants, or the biggest fish ever caught. Even miniatures of loved ones can be reproduced in enamel.

The simplest cufflinks are the simplest. At Tiffany a silver button with gold criss-cross stitching costs £90, but its best-selling style for more than 40 years remains a double button cufflink in 18ct gold, at £420. An even more extravagant present, packaged in the distinctive blue Tiffany box, would be 18ct gold button links with diamonds in the stitch holes (£1,055).

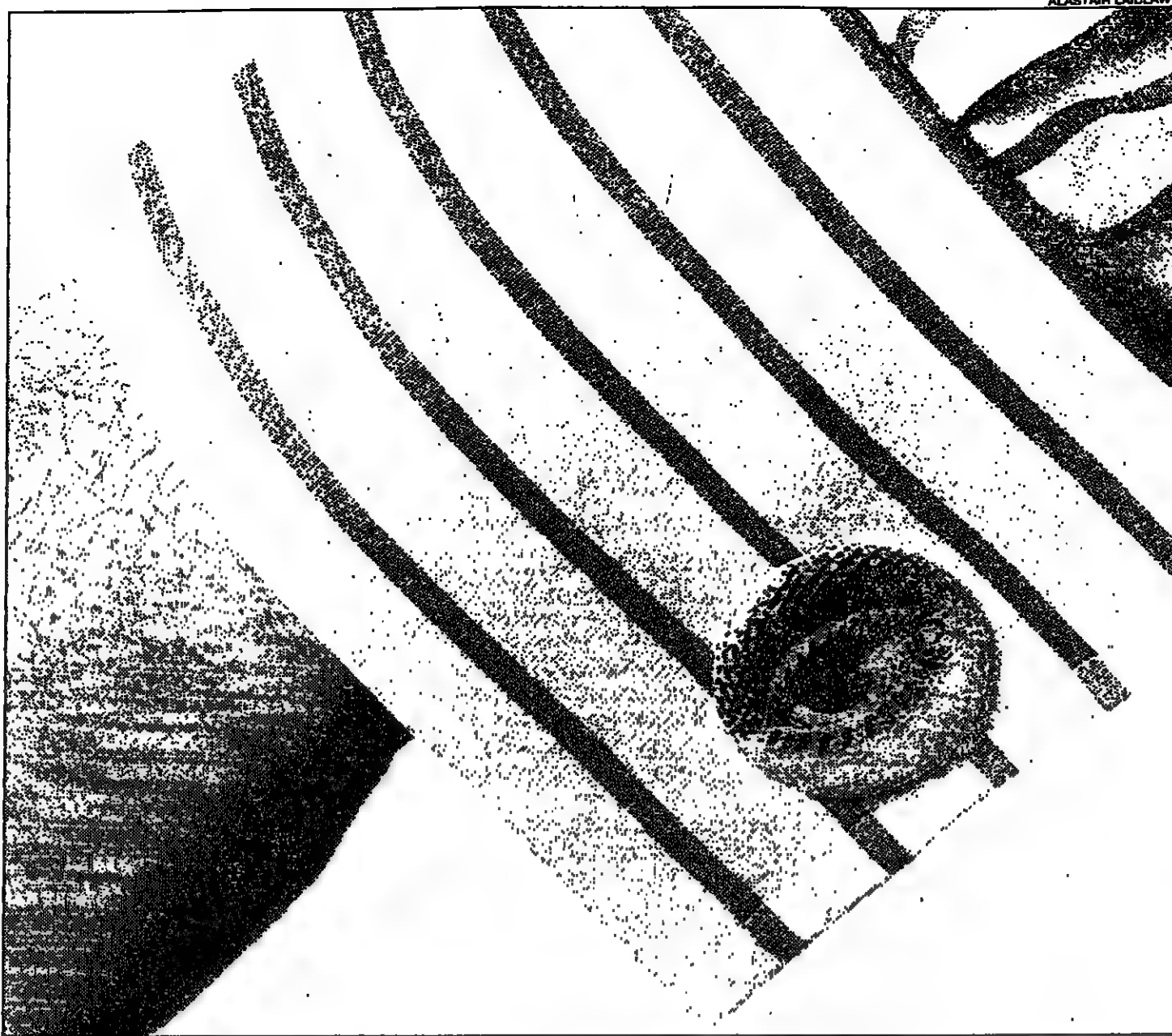
Cartier translates its popular Russian wedding ring design into

Even miniatures of loved ones can be reproduced in enamel

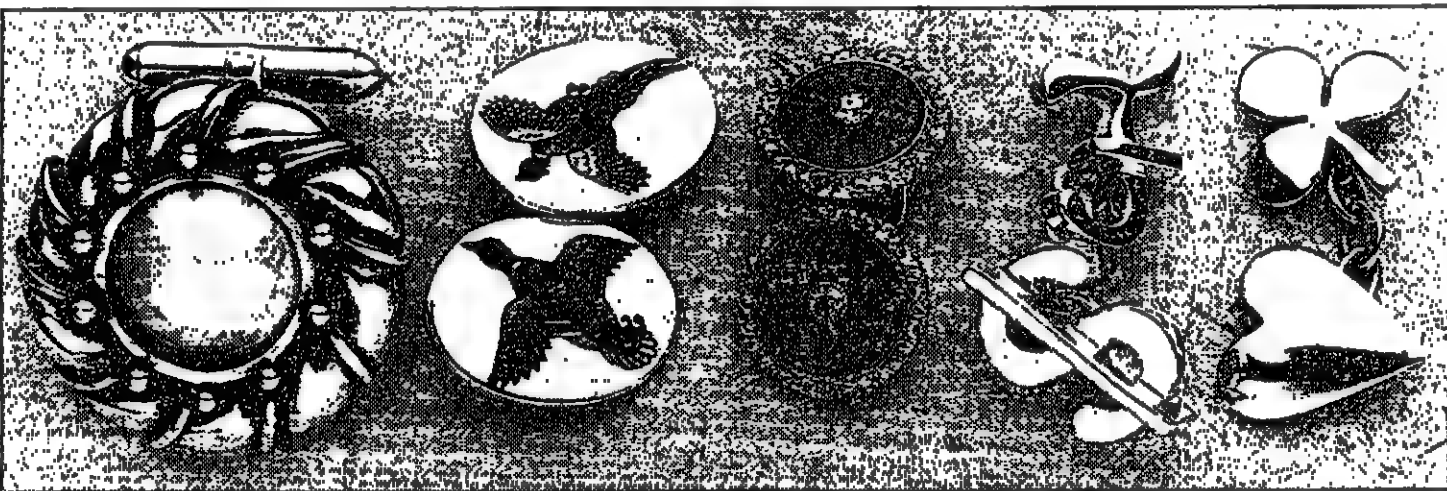
classic cufflinks that are twists of three colours of gold, costing £1,405. Typical Cartier cabochon-cut gemstones sunk into the City range of cufflinks include onyx, lapis, coral and malachite, priced from £950.

Hermès's 18ct gold Sellier button cufflinks, with Hermès engraved around the edge, cost £920. At Gucci, cufflinks in stirrup or GG designs start at £35 in metal, and at £140 in 18ct gold.

At Turnbull & Asser in Jermyn Street (where one cuff is made bigger on bespoke shirts, to take into account the wearer's wrist-watch) Kenneth Williams, the managing director, has watched customers switch from simple three-buttoned cuffs to double cuffs that demand links. He has transformed Turnbull & Asser shirt buttons into smart cufflinks, backed and criss-cross stitched in 18ct gold for £95 (£75 for silver). Smoked pearl button cufflinks are supplied for evening shirts, £195 for a set of cufflinks and three studs. Most of the shirts sold by Thomas Pink, the shirtmakers with shops in London, Bath and Edinburgh and with a large mail order clientele, are double-cuffed. Pink sells silver cufflinks in plain ovals, or adorned with a fox's head and tail, as well as the colourful silk knots that are hand-made in



How to clinch the deal on a nod and a wink: wear a pair of eye cufflinks by Paul Smith, price £39, seen here adorning a Thomas Pink cotton shirt



Think links: (from left) pearl and silver cufflinks, £360, Paul Smith; 9ct gold pheasant cufflinks, £650, Nigel Milne; Victorian diamond and blue enamel cufflinks, £5,200, Paul Longmire; sterling-dollar cufflinks in silver, £49.95, Charles Tyrwhitt; hearts and clubs in 9ct gold, £420, Garrard

Indonesia and cost just £5. Hornes (with branches around the country) sells cufflinks displaying Hot and Cold as on ceramic taps, price £45, and typewriter keys mounted on sterling silver. Herbert Johnson in Bond Street has a good selection of cufflinks, mixing fishing hat and rod, or jockey's crop and cap, as well as one that marries a miniature bowler hat with a rolled-up copy of *The Times* (£75).

The mecca for antique cufflinks in London is, appropriately, in the gentlemanly, clubby atmosphere of St. James's, where Paul Longmire presides over a collection of 600 different cufflinks.

Holder of three royal warrants, he keeps his customers supplied with late 19th-century and early Edwardian cufflinks, and enjoys searching out pieces to satisfy the quirkiest demands. Prices start at about £1,000, although an antique mother-of-pearl button cufflink, knotted in gold, is priced at £860. The Crafts Council shop at the Victoria & Albert Museum, always a good source of unconventional presents, has commissioned cufflinks from 19 designers for a special mini-exhibition called "Off the Cuff".

Among the more notable pieces are cufflinks in brightly coloured enamel on silver by a Royal College of Art graduate, Zsuzsi Morrison, and geometrically-patterned PVC, laminate and rubber cufflinks by the Scottish designer, Anne Finlay. Peter Chang's vividly coloured, carved and inlaid acrylic cufflinks use an old Chinese lacquer technique. Some include tiny acrylic mirrors and gold leaf discs. Alistair McCallum, a silversmith, is showing cufflinks in a mixture of metals - silver with brass and copper, for example. His use of chemicals to patinate the metals results in quite dramatic colour contrasts.

More classical are Alison MacCullough's peach and black marble and silver pieces, and Vicky Ambrey-Smith's architecturally-inspired, mixed metal cufflinks. Precious metal pieces include Gerda Flockinger's collectable work in silver and gold with pearls and stones.

Paul Smith, Floral St, London WC2; Nigel Milne, 106 Grafton St, W1; Paul Longmire, 12 Bury St, SW1; Charles Tyrwhitt, 32 Parady Rd, W10; Garrard, 112 Regent St, W1. Off the Cuff is at the Crafts Council Shop, Victoria & Albert Museum, London SW7 (071-589 5070) until December 23, from 10am-5.30pm Monday-Saturday, 2.30-5.30pm Sunday.

Recalling the lights fantastic

Are the glittering Christmas illuminations of Regent Street fading into a dim memory?

A FAVOURITE refrain at this time of year is that the Regent Street lights "aren't what they used to be". In the Fifties and Sixties people went mad for the lights, if the newspapers of the time are to be believed. The display in 1959 made the centre spread of *Life* magazine; the *Evening Standard* devoted its first full-page, full-colour picture to the lights of 1961.

The hysteria probably peaked in 1960. Cartoonists of every important newspaper seemed to find a way of including the lights in a topical joke, while some writers even took the theme of internally-lit angels quite seriously. "They lean forward to sound their trumpets in glory," the *Yorkshire Post* reported. "They are unliturgical, but they are folklore angels, long-garmented, and as they are now they will be admired by many thousands." There were many pictures of the naive and untutored gazing upwards with their mouths open. "Blimey, guv," a cabbie was reported to have told the angels' designer, Beverley Pick, "this place gets more like heaven every day."

Mr Pick was responsible for the design of 12 of Regent Street's Christmas lighting schemes, beginning with the first in 1954. A year earlier he had designed the street's decorations for the Queen's coronation.

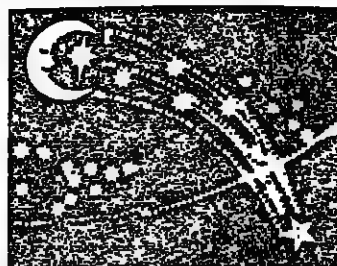
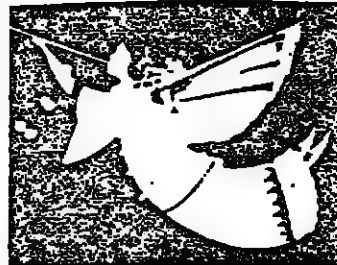
In 1954 there was simply a series of lanterns hanging from the shop fronts. "It didn't occur to anyone you could string a whole lot of clobber across the street," Mr Pick says. However, by the next year he was stringing clobber across the street in the form of snow crystals, glistening shapes suspended from wires and floodlit. By 1959, the familiar Pick trademark of independently-lit "features" suspended across the street and linked by loops of coloured lights had emerged. This was the year of his chandeliers. "That was my all-time favourite scheme," he says.

BY THE mid-Sixties, the demands of the job - climbing up and down ladders, trying to apply stagecraft while standing out in the rain night after night - were too much for him. "I used to sit at home and pray that nothing fell off," he says. Mr Pick is now retired from a successful design career that earned him an OBE. Since 1966, a number of designers have done the Regent Street lights, including the Conran Design Group (1987), Imagination (1988), and the jewellers Butler & Wilson (1982).

Why do the decorations seem to have lost some of their impact? Harry With, the designer of this year's clowns scheme for Vantage Design, defends them energetically. "Who are you creating the lights for? It's not for people like Terence Conran. It's for the children. We'd been through trees, we'd been through stars."

Mr Pick's approach was different. "In my day," he says, "I used to set out to appeal to the more sophisticated, who, after all, did their shopping in Regent Street. Kids would only be attracted by the lights and the colour."

The real difference probably lies



Making light of Christmas: from top, Regent Street illuminations in 1960, 1979 and this year



Those bright, remembered days: Beverley Pick in the Sixties

in the cost. This year's scheme cost £175,000, contributed partly by the traders of the Regent Street Association, and partly by National Power, in the form of sponsorship. In the early days, Mr Pick was working with budgets of about £30,000. "If they did those schemes today, it would probably be £1 million-worth of work," he says.

No one, of course, is going to put up £1 million for Christmas lights unless it is clear that there is something to be gained from it. "In the Fifties and early Sixties going to see the lights became the thing to do," Mr Pick says. "Now even the media have lost interest."

CALLUM MURRAY

All change for the big show

Television fashion goes live with a challenge from *The Times*

BIRMINGHAM establishes its place on the fashion map this week when BBC television's *The Clothes Show* moves into the National Exhibition Centre and becomes "live".

Since 1986, when the programme was first screened and

started to lower the rarefied tone that television had previously taken towards high fashion, the organisers have been pressed by viewers wanting to attend shows and events. As a result the *Clothes Show* team, headed by Jeff Banks and Selina Scott, went

"public" for the first time last year and 30,000 fashion enthusiasts crowded the exhibition halls at Olympia, west London.

Now the event, which is sponsored by Lloyds Bank, is to be expanded into a five-day fashion bonanza, opening on Thursday.

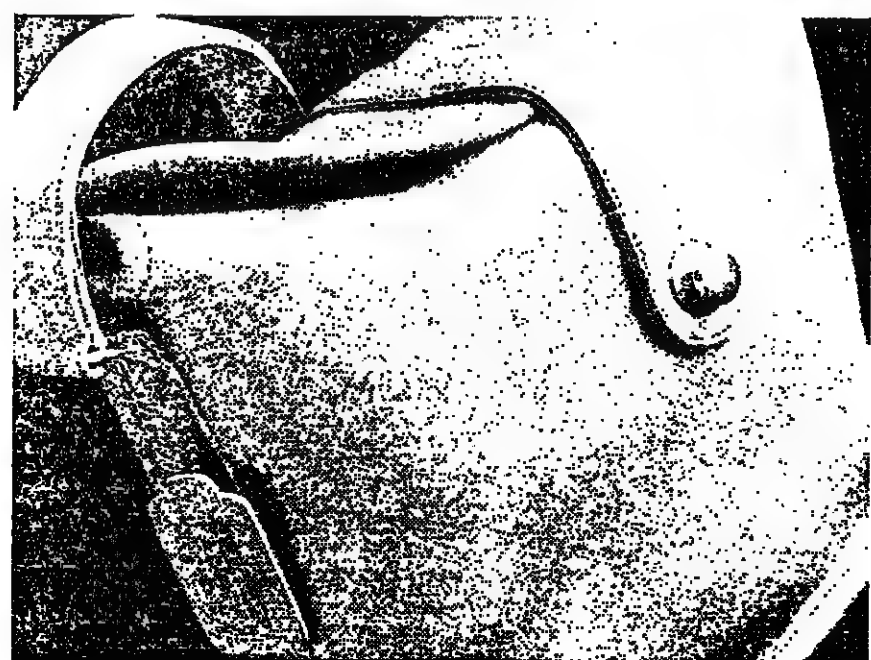
On stand G113 in Hall 8, *The Times* is challenging fashion students taking the BA honours course at the Polytechnic of Central London to



Presenter: Selina Scott design a different outfit each day based on pages from the Saturday Review section, printed on to wool challis. Beauty experts will demonstrate their skills on volunteers, and the secrets of fashion photography will be revealed in improvised studios. Six catwalk shows will be staged each day and Mary Quant, Vivienne Westwood (the designer of the year), Edina Ronay, Antony Price and John Richmond head the list of guest designers.

L.S. © The Clothes Show Live, NEC, Birmingham, December 6-10

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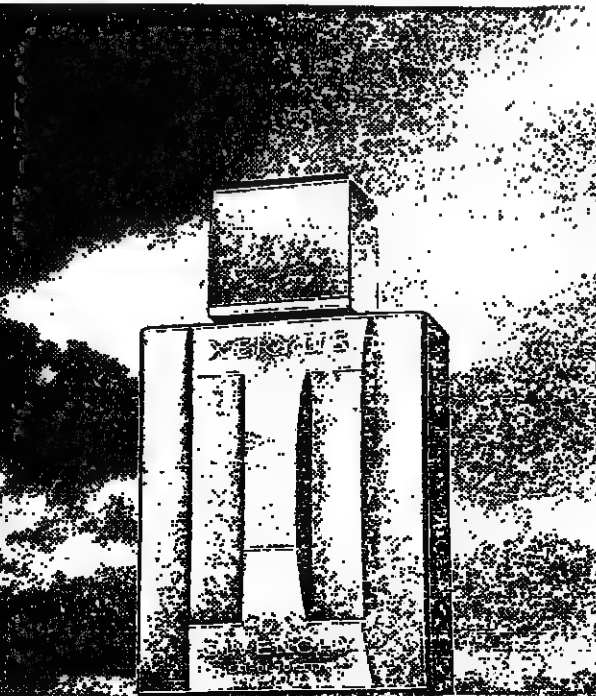
THE GOLD ONE-HUNDREDTH
WORLD OF INTERIORS

There's rich 24-carat vein running through every page of December's special celebration issue: a mine of glinting inspirational ideas: shimmering wallpapers, burnished picture frames, a gilded setting for the opera, glittering interiors.

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GIVENCHY

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CINEMA

Shooting an actor acting the shooter

How about this for a prophetic dress rehearsal? In the film *Postcards from the Edge* (opening in Britain next month) Simon Callow plays the part of an English director named Simon, making his first film in America. A year after completing that Mike Nichols film in Hollywood, Callow was in Willieville, Texas, doing it for real. But the flamboyant, archetypal film director he created for the screen has little in common with the gravitas of the figure that occupies the director's chair in Willieville.

That the offer to direct his first film should have come from the United States was almost inevitable. Though Callow's accomplishments are less visible there (Equity prohibits him from acting on the American stage), his work is more highly prized than in Britain. His biography of Charles Laughton, dismissed by the editor of one British paper as too boring and badly written to be considered for serialisation, was given a five-page review in *The New Yorker*. His performance in the six-hour *Faust* at the Lyric, Hammersmith, received tepid notices in England, but a feverishly enthusiastic review in *The New York Times*.

Callow was the first actor of his generation to re-cast himself, with equal success, as a director and writer. Precocity, strong opinions, the breezy public manner, these characteristics have always provoked extreme reactions. People either love Callow or loathe him, and he is aware of it.

Luckily, one of his most loyal admirers is the film producer Ismail Merchant, who gave Callow his first screen role (as the Reverend Beebe in *A Room with a View*), and now the opportunity to direct his first film. Unable to finance this film in any other way ("We have letters of rejection which amount to a total exposure of the state of mind of people who finance films," says Callow), Merchant broke the film producer's cardinal rule by putting up the bulk of the money himself. "I wanted Simon for this project," says Merchant, "because the material is so theatrical, outlandish, operatic even, that it could so easily go wrong in every direction without someone of his capabilities."

The project is the Carson McCullers novella, *The Ballad of the Sad Cafe*. It is an extreme and freakish love story of a glen (Vanessa Redgrave) who falls in love with a hunchbacked dwarf

Simon Callow, on the set of his first film as director, is interviewed by Anna Kythreotis

(Cork Hubbard) who does not return her love but instead loves the man (Keith Carradine) who loved the glen who had rejected him.

"The literary form of this is, to steal a term from modern South American writers, magic realism," explains Callow, lighting a fresh cigarette from the butt of the last. "The more I read of what McCullers had to say about it the more I understood, as I believe, that it was a sort of harsh, strange fairy story. It has the element of poetic feeling that is exactly what I would have wanted to bring to the screen had I chosen a subject myself."

He obeyed the Merchant imperative "like one accepts events in a

'I have no interest in final solutions: the actors take over the imaginative baton...'

dream. I'm what you might call a passive extrovert. I almost never go out to get anything; things have unbelievably luckily just come to me." The film came at a time when Callow began to notice that his theatre work was tending dangerously towards the cinematic. "I was trying to achieve something of the speed and change of focus that a film offers. The theatre should never be a medium for the director's self-expression, but it can be, and perhaps should be, in a film."

He arrived on the set "a complete and blushing virgin". His ability to cope with the dramatic elements was never in doubt, but his ease at picking up the language and the technical aspects of film-making amazed all. "Complete paralysis" is how Callow describes his reaction to his first moment on the set. "Then I

ceased to feel any anxiety at all. I knew that I'd have to conduct my education in public, as usual, and make a fool of myself."

Callow, an *enfant terrible* of the fringe, embraced gay literature and theatre long before it became fashionable to do so. His major theatrical break came when he created a contentious portrayal of Mozart in Peter Shaffer's *Amadeus* for the National Theatre.

Callow then offended the British theatrical establishment with his book, *Being an Actor*. Its final chapter, the "Manifesto", attacked the hegemony of directors and advocated a radical re-assessment of their function. By taking on the auteur's medium, Callow knows he is putting his head in a noose.

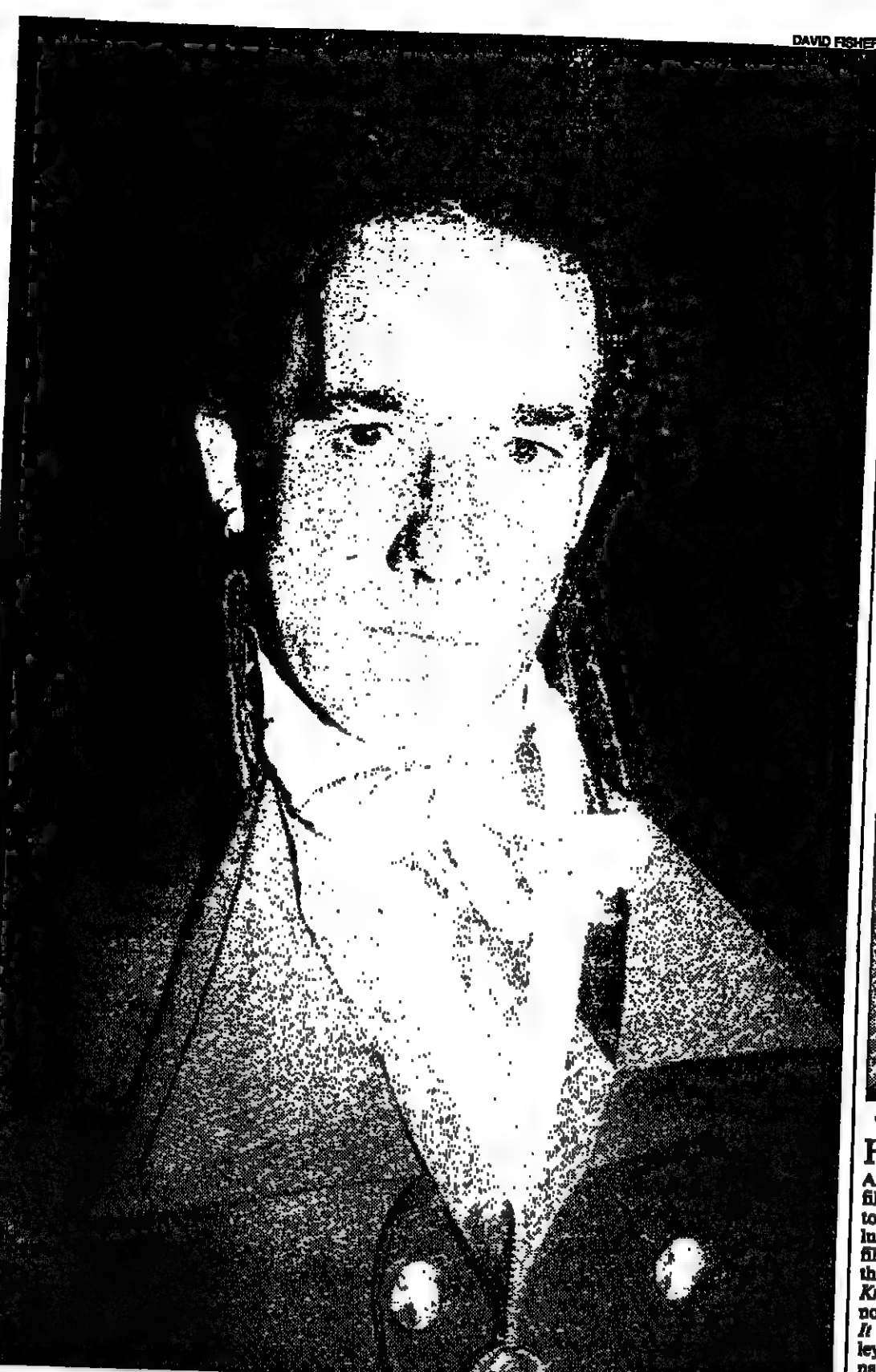
"I don't take anything back — but I'm a different person. The person who wrote that Manifesto was absolutely right, and whenever I direct a play in the theatre I always take a copy and say 'Look, this is what I wrote and I think he's right, and I am as likely to offend against what he says in that as anybody else, so if I do, shout at me.' And they do."

Not in Willieville, they don't. Scratch anyone on the set and they bleed praise to the point of haemorrhage. "Most directors lack knowledge and experience of acting — that is the most neglected aspect," says Rod Steiger. "Callow is imaginative, co-operative, compassionate, helpful, open to suggestions and advice — and without any ego problem. I'd work with him anytime."

For the film, Callow replaced his Manifesto with a three-page document that examined the nature of the work. "My belief is that the principal job of a director is to elucidate the vision of the work, to keep it ever present in peoples' minds. Once you do that, directing, except in the most technical sense, becomes almost redundant."

"I have no interest in imposing final solutions. I'm only interested in proposing the general intention of the piece and its world, and then plugging my collaborators into it. Then the actors take over the imaginative baton and go further than you'd imagined. The thing that I would most like to have said of me is that I was a catalyst."

At the close of the film Callow was given the clapper-board, the traditional tribute of the camera crew to a director who has earned their respect. The State of Texas gave him honorary citizenship, though he still has to pay his speeding fines.



Callow, as director, has to "conduct my education in public, as usual, and make a fool of myself"

Traveller on his own 'trane

Jan Garbarek, jazz saxophonist now in Britain, talks to Clive Davis

Jan Garbarek describes his first encounter, almost 30 years ago, with the sound of John Coltrane: "Every morning when I got dressed, brushed my teeth or had breakfast, he was there in the background." Garbarek was 14 at the time. He recalls that he had little interest in jazz or any form of music for that matter, until the moment he heard Coltrane playing "Countdown" on the radio.

Exhilarated by the tenor player's performance, Garbarek obtained a copy of the record, listening to it every day before going to school. The next step was to buy his own saxophone. He taught himself largely by listening to albums. He was, he says, unaware of the vast complexity of Coltrane's vocabulary which struck him most as the impression of spontaneity. It was probably just as well that the

young Garbarek did not know how great a challenge he was setting himself. He made fast progress: after a year he was leading a quartet — modelled on Coltrane's — at Norway's amateur jazz championships.

Since then he has developed his own style. With his sparse, leaning tone and his forays into traditional folk themes, he has become the most distinctive of European saxophonists.

His minimalist approach is not to everybody's taste. He is not the kind of player who will set concert halls alight with choruses of

"Now's the Time" or "In a Sentimental Mood". Understatement is the key to his music and he sometimes drifts perilously close to emollient mood music.

The static, precisely controlled ambience of his concerts is certainly a long way from the unpredictability of his early period. "In the good old Sixties," he says, "we used to go on stage and just play. Nothing was pre-arranged. After a while I found that it was sounding the same. Total freedom seems to be a very limited thing, I didn't feel free with the freedom."

On his new album, *I Took Up the Runes*, Garbarek has recruited the "African Parisian" Manu Katché, a drummer who had previously worked with Robbie Robertson and Peter Gabriel. To some listeners, Katché's style is too reminiscent of rock music. Garbarek disagrees; he enjoys hearing a drummer who, he says, uses all the resources of the kit.

Unlike many of his contemporaries, Garbarek looks beyond the routines of pure improvisation. His output has included scores for stage productions of Ibsen, and a recording inspired by

the work of the poet Tomas Tranströmer. He also makes a habit of hunting down folk songs, often visiting the archives of Oslo University to research material. Pianist Keith Jarrett and Garbarek have worked together in the past; for example, on the orchestral composition "Luminescence". Is there any chance of a reunion? Garbarek thinks it unlikely.

He notes that Jarrett has gravitated towards recordings of Bach and re-workings of jazz evergreens with his "Standards" trio. "If you see what Keith is doing and what I am doing, it would not be very logical."

Jan Garbarek is at the Town & Country, London NW25 (071-284 0303) tonight and the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester (061-273 4504) on Thursday

BRIEFING

To dance, sign here

AMERICAN Ballet Theatre has told its dancers that unless they agree to new contracts by today, the company will be disbanded. The two sides are in dispute over touring allowances and a proposal that members of the corps de ballet should no longer be entitled to single rooms when on the road. Artistic director Jane Hermann says the principal dancers have all signed new contracts and she cannot believe the dancers would close down the company on such a point. The dancers' union is angry because the management issued its ultimatum direct to the dancers without going through the negotiating machinery.

All his own work

THE pianist John Ogdon's musical eccentricity and his tortured personal life have tended to eclipse the fact that he was, in his time, a considerable composer in his own right. A recital at London's Blackheath Concert Halls on Sunday should redress the imbalance in our memory of him. Works written when he was one of the central figures of the Manchester New Music Group will be played, together with later compositions such as his *Sonata* for unaccompanied flute, his *25 Preludes* for piano, and his "American" piano sonata written for his wife, Brenda Lucas, one of the evening's pianists.



John Ogdon: also a composer

Homegrown

AFTER years of neglect, British film-makers are finally waking up to the wealth of grisly material lurking in the country's criminal files. Following his success with the lives and murders of *The Kray*s, the director Peter Medak is now at the helm of *Let Him Have It* — an examination of the Bentley-Craig case which held the nation in thrall during the winter of 1952. Craig, aged 16, killed a policeman after being caught breaking into a confectionery warehouse in Croydon; but it was 19-year-old Bentley, his mentally defective accomplice, who was old enough to be executed. Two screen newcomers, Christopher Eccleston and Paul Reynolds, take the leading roles.

Last chance...

TOM Cairns' Greenwich production of *Miss Julie* relies confidently on physical naturalism and psychological realism, as well as on a fresh translation by Helen Cooper. As Strindberg's would-be seductress, Lesley Manville gives a credible, touching interpretation, made the more poignant by her physical frailty. In Barry Lynch's footman, Jean, she has a sturdy partner. An impressive London debut for Cairns, the show closes on Saturday at Greenwich Theatre (081-858 7755).



Garbarek: distinctive European

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Limited appeal of musical superlatives

LAST week revealed one of the more perverse phenomena of London's concert life: how a programme of exceptional interest played by an orchestra of reliable quality can all but empty a hall. The Chamber Orchestra of Europe was hardest hit. The first of its four concerts with Gennadi Rozhdenskiy at the Barbican offered Britten and Stravinsky rarities, along with more popular works. The public did not buy it.

Rozhdenskiy brings out the best in this orchestra. The maestro dislikes lengthy rehearsal: the sections work diligently among themselves to make up the shortfall; Rozhdenskiy twinkles at them at the right musical and psychological moment, and the result is transfixing. Sel-

dom are Britten's *Frank Bridge Variations* played with such vibrant string texture; seldom do Stravinsky's *Symphonies of Wind Instruments* sound so mordantly witty. The reason for being there, though, was to hear Philip Langridge sing Britten's early *Quatre chansons françaises* and, joined by Yvonne Kenny and Stephen Varcoe, to perform Stravinsky's complete *Pulcinella*, songs and all. Britten wrote his first song-cycle when he was 15, and it has surfaced comparatively recently from the Britten estate, with a debut at Snape ten years ago, with sporadic performances since, and with a recording made last year. The word-setting responds more to the scenes and sounds of Verlaine and Hugo than to

the niceties of linguistic inflection. But so cunningly do the orchestra's own soloists duet with the voice amid extraordinarily confident orchestration, that the listener is struck only by the passion of the composer's own responses.

Stravinsky's game, on the other hand, was to encourage a sense of distance. The *trompe* effect of his reworkings of Periplois in short, sparsely scored orchestral movements was sharply delineated in all its droll melancholy.

Plenty of seats were spare, too, in the Festival Hall for an ingenious BBC Symphony Orchestra programme focusing on music for the oboe by Mozart and Bruno Maderna. More should have been there to hear Maurice Bourgeas go a long way towards proving, in a

performance of deft ornamentation and musical clarity, that the oboe was the great original, preceding the flute in Mozart's two conceptions of this same work.

The flute may have dominated Bruno Maderna's writing in the 1950s, but the oboe took over in his final years, and the Third Concerto seems to sum up many of his preoccupations as a composer. The tug between "composed" and "spontaneous" music reaches its apotheosis in what is a substantially aleatory score, with chance playing as large a part as any orchestral instrument on stage.

Lothar Zagrosek kept pretty tight control of the concerto's unfolding. The plan of action set out in Maderna's own recorded performance was by

and large followed, with the oboe's own open cadenza being stabilised by a free, filigree of orchestral pedal. Bourgeas, as soloist, would then dare his colleagues to imitate or counter his brittle fragments of melody.

The fun really started after a brief explosive tutti, when a long oboe solo (at times teasing the reed only) was supported and interrupted by changing orchestra groups. Bourgeas inflicted his performance throughout towards mischief and artifice.

The concert had begun with Stockhausen's curiously unjubilant *Jubilee*, a 20-minute ritual of sound waves passing from left to right in an austere, almost chorale-like formula through an orchestra layered and disposed by means of register.

The item which acted as counterbalance and bait, Brahms's Third Symphony, was in fact an unremarkable performance, as was Janice Graham's uneasy rendering of Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in a similarly challenging programme earlier in the week by the Young Musicians Symphony Orchestra. That evening had started with the premiere of *The Music of Dawn* by David Matthews. A painting by Cecil Collins with the same title had inspired Matthews to write a tone poem for larger forces than is his wont, and to do so with energy and assurance. With its scrapping ebb and flow of percussion, and its gradual intensification, the first part evoked both Britten and Debussy. The latter and more substantial part, though, skill-

BEST MUSICAL

1990 EVENING STANDARD AWARDS

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EVENING STANDARD

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JACK TINKER, DAILY MAIL



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DAILY TELEGRAPH

FIVE STARS

NAME

FACE

LYRIC THEATRE

BBC 1

6.00 CeeFax
8.30 BBC Breakfast News with Nicholas Witchell and Jill Dando
8.50 Daytime UK 9.00 News, regional news and weather 9.05 Brainwaves. With Andy Craig 9.25 Dish of the Day. Cookery hints from Rosemary Moon 9.30 People Today. Adrian Mills and Debi Jones report on the lives of people around Britain 10.00 News, regional news and weather 10.05 Playdays (r) 10.25 Barney. Cartoon (r) 10.35 People Today. Caring Health UK. Mary Lewis looks at immunisation 11.00 News, regional news and weather 11.05 Killy. Robert Killy-Silk hosts a discussion on teenage rebellion 11.45 Before Noon. Another Grammy winner is revealed 12.00 News, regional news and weather 12.05 Rosemary Conley's Diet and Fitness Club 12.20 Soave Theatre 12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton
1.30 Newsnight (CeeFax)
1.50 Going for Gold Henry Kelly hosts the quiz
2.15 Film: Hanger 8 (1980) A close encounter with a crashed UFO leads two astronauts (Daren McGavin and Robert Vaughn) on to the trail of a government cover-up. Routine sci-fi thriller, directed by James L. Conway
9.50 Children's BBC: Forget-Me-Not Farm 4.05 The Chipmunks 4.20 Happy Families
4.35 Now Then: Children of the Caves. CHOICE: An archaeological series for children starts at a cave near Tenby in west Wales, where they are excavating a settlement from the Stone Age. Two local children from the Stone hosts Tony Gregory and Paul Birbeck to meet the director of the dig and look over the artefacts. Himself an archaeologist, Gregory is an enthusiastic guide and seasoned television presenter. The show is an artist, on hand to draw the site as it might have been 12,000 years ago.

But the main novelty of the format is to introduce two more youngsters as "time children" dressed in the clothes of the period, and get them to "dig up" notes with the modern kids. The idea is to underline differences between now and then, with the Stone Age children revealing their ignorance of mathematics, watches, sandwiches and chocolate. It is a friendly show which wears its knowledge lightly

5.00 Newsround
5.10 Grange Hill (CeeFax) (r)
5.35 Neighbours (CeeFax) (r). Northern Ireland. Sportsworld, 5.40 Inside Uster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Anna Ford. Weather
6.30 Regional news magazines
7.00 Trivial Pursuit Rory McGrath hosts the board-game quiz (CeeFax)
7.30 EastEnders (CeeFax)
8.00 The Good Life Benji Savantes comedy of suburban self-sufficiency, starring Richard Briers, Felicity Kendal, Paul Eddington and Penelope Keith (r) (CeeFax)
8.30 A Question of Sport Ian Botham is joined by Liverpool defender Glen Hysen and Olympic swimmer Sharon Davies. Bill Beaumont's team members are the world snooker champion Stephen Hendry and Scotland's rugby union captain David Sole. David Coleman puts the questions (CeeFax)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Marylin Lewis. Regional news and weather
9.30 Clive James Meets Ronald Reagan
 CHOICE: This encounter between the greatest living Australian and the only man to make it from 8 moves to the White House was not available for previewing, but it promises much. On the face of it, Forrester might have difficulty filling the 50 minutes, given that he was apparently unable to say anything as president that had not been written for him and fed into the autocue. The indications are that James will go easy on the old guy and stick with safe subjects, such as Mrs Thatcher. The show was recorded a week before the Conservative leadership battle but you can still expect



Encounter: Reagan (left) and James (8.30pm)

a glowing Reagan tribute to his old friend. The interview also covers the assassination attempt which threatened to end the Reagan presidency only three months after it had started. The great communicator's memory of the incident turns out to be rather shrewd than of the subsequent Iran-Contra affair. Wales, Week in Week Out, 10.00-10.50 Clive James Meets Ronald Reagan From the Heart of the World: The Elder Brothers' Warning. CHOICE: An ample documentary from northern Columbia offers a rare glimpse of the redoubtable Kogi tribe, descendants of a civilisation that went into hiding 400 years ago and has hardly been seen since, certainly not on television. Thanks to an intermediary, the producer Alan Ereima was able to take a camera crew to the Kogi's mountain retreat and make first-hand contact with a culture that has nothing to do with the 20th century. Apart, that is, for a concern about the environment, articulated by the Kogi priests who accuse the rest of us of having brought the world to the edge of destruction. As it is to occur, Ereima shows grave robbers on another part of the mountain hoping to find the gold that will make their fortune. The price of Kogi co-operation is a certain distancing, with 730 words being spoken by British actors and a reliance about their family life. But there is much fascinating material. Wales: 10.50-12.00am From the Heart of the World 11.50 Weather

BBC 2

8.00 News
8.15 Westminster Roundup of business from the Lords and Commons
9.00 Sportz Crazy A look at some bizarre Australian sports (r)
9.40 Film: Up in Mabel's Room (1944) Reunited bedroom farce starring Marjorie Reynolds and Constance O'Keefe. A young professor has to retrieve some incriminating evidence from a former girlfriend's room. Directed by Allan Dwan
11.00 After Hours Magazine programme which looks at the latest trends in America, includes a feature on the pop band Duran Duran
11.15 Chris Serle's Summer Season Penny Hedges, Chris Serle gets to the bottom of an ancient ceremony at the fish market in Whitby, Yorkshire (r). Northern Ireland: 11.15-11.35 Uster in Focus
11.25 The Pop Shop Diane Kemp finds out why the penguinbroker is making a comeback in Britain (r)
11.55 The Breeding How a young Arab stallion is broken in (r)
12.05 Mosaic Two films of which the first, Black, traces the history of racism in Britain. Followed at 12.55 by Facing a 16/1000 film in which young black people talk about their experiences (r) 1.20 Greenclaws (r)
1.35 See Heart (r)

2.00 News and weather, followed by Where Were You on the Day War Broke Out? A review of the 24 hours preceding the start of the second world war at midnight on Sunday September 3, 1939 (r)
2.50 Holiday Outings Philip Schofield investigates a multi-activity holiday in the French Alps (r)
3.00 News and weather, followed by Westminster Live. The city's business in the Lords and Commons
3.50 News and weather. Regional news and weather
4.00 Catchword Paul Cota hosts the word game
4.30 Behind the Headlines With Robert Robinson, Lloyd Grossman and guests
5.00 Advice Shop Out in the Country, a special edition from Somerset reports on the spread into the countryside of traditionally inner-city problems such as homelessness and unemployment
6.30 The Travel Show Guides: Normandy (CeeFax) (r)
6.00 Film: The Gold (1955) Richard Egan, Anthony Quinn and Jeffery Hunter star in a dual costume drama about the Spanish conquistadors expedition from Mexico to annex California, and its search for the seven cities. Directed by Robert D. Webb
7.40 Prisoners of Conscience Claire Rayner relates the first of two stories about people imprisoned for their beliefs

7.45 Assignment: Korea - Making Up Is Hard To Do. After the reunification of Germany, North and South Korea are contemplating a similar path. Veteran Asia-watcher Brian Baran reports from the staunchly pro-Western society in the south and the communist regime in the north
8.30 Food and Drink Antony Worrall-Thompson, chef at London's 100 Queensgate, cooks up a feast: Spanish wine comes under the scrutiny of Oz Clarke; and ideas for Christmas desserts from France
9.00 Twin Peaks The murky waters of David Lynch's mystic soap remain. Agent Cooper (Kyle MacLachlan) goes undercover at One-Eyed Jack's, and Dr Jacoby (Russ Tamblyn) gets a call from beyond the grave. (CeeFax)
9.50 The Sentence The often revealing documentary "series" filmed at Glen Parke Young Offenders Institution in Leicestershire
10.20 250 Useful Ideas from Japan Traditions, Japanese packaging
10.30 Newsnight with Jeremy Paxton
11.15 The Last Show A painting by Jasper Johns recently fetched \$17million at auction. Matthew Collinge finds out why 11.55 Weather
12.00 Prisoners of Conscience Claire Rayner with the second of tonight's portraits
12.05am Behind the Headlines (r) Ends at 12.40

ITV LONDON

6.00 TV-am
9.25 Newsnight Alastair Devlin hosts the music quiz 9.55 Thames News and weather
10.00 The Time, The Place John Stapleton hosts the topical discussion which allows a studio audience to air their views
10.40 This Morning Judy Farnham and Richard Madeley offer advice on money and legal matters, with the help of financial expert Anne Ashworth. Maggie Philbin presents the Checkout slot, and Susan Jay has more tips on how to make the most of retirement. Includes 10.55 ITN News, 11.55 Thames News and weather
12.05 Rod, Jane & Freddy The musical trio sing about shapes
12.25 Home and Away (See 6pm for details) 12.55 Thames News and weather
1.00 News with John Suchet Weather
1.20 When You Were Here - Another chance to see yesterday's edition of the snappy quiz show, with reports from John Carter on Budapest and Anne Rice on Bath (r)
1.50 A Country Practice Australian soap set in a community health clinic
2.20 Take The High Road Drama from the highland village of Glendoch
2.50 Talkabout Andrew O'Connor hosts the game for quick-thinking couples with the gift of the gab 3.15 News
3.25 Families 30-continental soap linking Australia with the north of England
3.55 Children's ITV: Huxley More adventures with the daydreaming pig 4.10 The Dramastones. Fantasy cartoon series 4.35 Sylvester. Animated fun with the cat and the canary (r)
4.40 Children's Ward Drama set in the children's ward of a hospital (CeeFax)
5.10 Stockbusters The last-minute quiz for teenagers hosted by Bob Holness

5.40 News at 5.40 with Fiona Armstrong. Weather
5.55 Thames Help Jackie Spackley reports on the Hyde Vale Children's Nursery
6.00 Home and Away (r) 6.30 Thames News and weather
7.00 Emmerdale Amos is shocked by a rumour about The Woolpack (Oracle)
7.30 Thames Reports: Pop Tix Review Who will benefit from the promised revision of the community charge?
8.00 The Bill Just for a Moment. Wpc Datta (Seeta Indrani) is taken hostage when a prisoner is left unattended. (Oracle)
8.30 Strike It Lucky Join Michael Barrymore to find out who will win tonight's £3,000 jackpot
9.00 Boon: Best Left Buried Crawford Boon Security receives unwanted publicity over sabotage at a building site, and Rocky (Neil Morrissey) finds himself attracted to a female snooker player. Starring Michael Elphick and David Daker (Oracle)
10.00 News with Alastair Burnet and Trevor McDonald Weather 10.30 Thames News and weather
10.40 First Tuesday
 CHOICE: Paul Sykes from Wakefield was good enough to fight for the British heavyweight boxing championship, and to take an Open University degree and his autobiography won an Arthur Koestler literary award. But his life has been a shambles. He has spent nearly half of his 46 years in prison and he has a wild and violent temper which has often made his high intelligence count for nothing. Nick Lord's profile follows Sykes through his latest prison sentence and his attempts yet again to build a stable life outside. The signs are not promising. Within three months he is back in trouble. A specialist in reading people, the Yorkshire All Garment in manner if not necessarily in substance, Sykes is a notch

subject and Lord does him justice. Those looking for the roots of Sykes's behaviour may find them at his tough upbringing at the hands of a mercurial father who, of all things, worked as a prison officer



Literary heavyweight: Paul Sykes (10.40pm)

11.40 Prisoner Cell Block H
12.30am The New Avengers The world's greatest assassin conspires himself in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower (r)
1.30 Video View Presented by Mariella Frostrup. Includes an interview with actor Rutger Hauer, good news for fans of Grease, and the latest videos to rent and buy
2.00 World Chess Raymond Keene examines the performance of the English team in the 29th Chess Olympiad. Plus the latest news on the battle for the world title between Kasparov and Karpov
2.15 60 Minutes The topical American news magazine
3.10 Donahue Phil Donahue talks to the veteran rock star Phil Collins
4.00 Entertainment UK
5.00 ITN Morning News with Brands Rowe Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Art of Landscape Images set to music to provide a soothing start to the day
6.20 Business Daily
6.30 The Channel 4 Daily including 6.35 and 6.35 Early Bird for children
9.25 Viewing Ahead Schools. Preview, starting with 9.30 Picture Box 9.47 Good Health 10.03 Middle English 10.20 Living and Growing 10.36 Design and Technology 10.53 Animals in Action 11.14 How We Used To Live 11.35 The Manufactured Landscape
12.00 The Parliament Programme Sue Cameron with an account of events in both houses
12.30 Business Daily Susannah Simons presents the lunchtime edition of the business and financial news service
1.00 Sesame Street Educational fun for pre-school children
2.00 Third Wave: A Life in Death Euthanasia has been legal in The Netherlands for many years. Should Britain allow its elderly to consider this option?
2.45 Film: Sing, Baby, Sing (1936, b/w) Alice Faye stars in a rousing musical satire on a famous romance of the day between John Barrymore and Elaine Barrie. Faye plays a cabaret singer who becomes involved with a drunken Shakespearean actor (Adrian Paul) who, she thinks, she is his Juliet. The film marked the debut of the Fitz Brothers and also stars Gregory Ratoff, Ted Healy and Patsy Kelly. Directed by Sidney Lanfield



Islam, USA: Shafiqul Alam (8.30pm)

4.20 Romance A Polish animation about an ill-fated romance between a 2-D man and 3-D woman
4.30 Fifteen-to-One Quiz show hosted by William G. Stewart
5.00 Owl TV Michael Sheehan presents the last programme in the nature series (Teletext)
5.30 Same Difference The series that looks at issues affecting people with disabilities examines the problem of obtaining equipment through Social Services
6.00 A Different World 21 Candles. American comedy series about the careers and adventures of students and teachers at Hillman College
6.30 Vibe Big Night Out. The filmabout comedian with more guests and comedians (Adaptex)
7.00 Channel Four News
7.50 Comment, followed by weather
8.00 Down to Earth The archaeology magazine examines the first great civilisation by man in Europe at

the end of the Stone Age, sends the writer Peter Aclyd on a visit to Southwark and investigates the excavation and conservation of pre-Roman bronze buckets, used in cremation burial
8.30 Sufism The Heart of Islam - Living Sufism. The first in a three-part series exploring Sufism, sometimes described as Islamic mysticism. Filmed mainly in Egypt and the United States, the first episode opens in Texas, where a community of 300 Sufis is led by American-born Shaykh Abu Al-Fatih
9.00 A New Year: Is There Going To Be a Heterosexual Epidemic? Updated repeat of a documentary on how the AIDS virus is spreading among heterosexuals. There is also a report on how Edinburgh is coping with 2,000 HIV-positive drug users and a look at the relatively low rate of infection among prostitutes
10.00 Olive (1987) Moving and affectionate television film written by Anthony Wheeler in tribute to his late wife, the South-African born actress Olive Bock, showing how a marriage of opposites coped with the challenge of motherhood. Starring Kenny McGuire and Nick Tate. Directed by Stephen Wallace
11.45 It's Showtime at the Apollo The last show in the series from the Apollo Theatre in Harlem, hosted by the Weather Girls. With New York comic Kim Coles and singer Keith Sweet
12.45am LoneStar Film Specials. Texas Lyle Lovett and his band play country music reflecting a mix of rural and urban influences. Ends at 1.50

TV VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
 As London except 6.55pm-7.00pm Anglia News 7.30-7.40pm Anglia 6.00 The Bill 11.40 The 28th Cambridge Foot Festival 12.15am Prisoner: Cell Block H 1.05 Film: Friday 1.25 Crime: The 1980s 1.50 Entertainment UK 4.30-5.00 Anglia Reports
BORDER
 As London except 1.50pm A Bruin with Arthur 2.20-2.50 Series: Billings 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00-6.10pm Tuesday 8.00-8.30pm Blockbusters 7.30-8.00pm Potentially Yours 11.40 Film: Night 12.40am Film: Somebody Killed Her Husband 2.30 Film: The New Avengers 3.30-3.55pm Night 3.45 Film: Yips - In Profile 4.55 About Britain 4.55-5.00 Johnnors
CENTRAL
 As London except 6.55-7.00pm Central News 7.30-8.00pm Sunday Morning 11.40 Film: Night 12.40am Film: Somebody Killed Her Husband 2.30 Film: The New Avengers 3.30-3.55pm Night 3.45 Film: Yips - In Profile 4.55 About Britain 4.55-5.00 Johnnors
GRANADA
 As London except 1.30pm-1.50pm Talkabout 2.50-3.15pm News and Weather 3.30-3.55pm Newsnight 3.55-4.00pm Newsnight 4.00-4.10pm Newsnight 4.10-4.20pm Newsnight 4.20-4.30pm Newsnight 4.30-4.40pm Newsnight 4.40-4.50pm Newsnight 4.50-5.00pm Newsnight 5.00-5.10pm Newsnight 5.10-5.20pm Newsnight 5.20-5.30pm Newsnight 5.30-5.40pm Newsnight 5.40-5.50pm Newsnight 5.50-6.00pm Newsnight 6.00-6.10pm Newsnight 6.10-6.20pm Newsnight 6.20-6.30pm Newsnight 6.30-6.40pm Newsnight 6.40-6.50pm Newsnight 6.50-7.00pm Newsnight 7.00-7.10pm Newsnight 7.10-7.20pm Newsnight 7.20-7.30pm Newsnight 7.30-7.40pm Newsnight 7.40-7.50pm Newsnight 7.50-8.00pm Newsnight 8.00-8.10pm Newsnight 8.10-8.20pm Newsnight 8.20-8.30pm Newsnight 8.30-8.40pm Newsnight 8.40-8.50pm Newsnight 8.50-9.00pm Newsnight 9.00-9.10pm Newsnight 9.10-9.20pm Newsnight 9.20-9.30pm Newsnight 9.30-9.40pm Newsnight 9.40-9.50pm Newsnight 9.50-10.00pm Newsnight 10.00-10.10pm Newsnight 10.10-10.20pm Newsnight 10.20-10.30pm Newsnight 10.30-10.40pm 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BUSINESS

TUESDAY DECEMBER 4 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

BTR chief executive to stand down

JOHN Cahill is to stand down as chief executive of BTR, the industrial conglomerate, after four years. He will be replaced by Alan Jackson, managing director of BTR Nylex, the Australian subsidiary, from January 1.

Mr Cahill, who reached the company's normal retirement age of 60 this year, will remain as a main board director of BTR and chairman of BTR Inc, in charge of the company's North American operations.

City analysts expressed surprise at the timing of Mr Cahill's departure, which coincides with growing concern in the City about prospects for BTR, resulting in a series of downgrades of profit forecasts.

But Sir Owen Green, the chairman, said speculation about Mr Cahill's position was unfounded. "We wanted to avoid the lame duck syndrome so we made the announcement just one month before he retires."

Dobson steady

Dobson Park Industries, the industrial electronics and mining equipment group, maintained pre-tax profits at £19.5 million (£19.2 million) for the year to end-September, despite rationalisation and restructuring costs of £2.8 million. Earnings fell from £12.09p to 11.32p and the total dividend is maintained at 5.75p with an unchanged final of 3.85p. The company is to seek shareholder approval to buy back up to 10 per cent of its ordinary shares.

Tempus, page 27

Westland rise

Westland has raised its dividend for the first time since it restored payments in 1987. The final dividend is 2.5p (2.25p), lifting the total for the year to end-September 7 per cent to 3.75p. Profits rose 27 per cent to £26.6 million.

Tempus, page 27

Tunnel issue

Eurotunnel claimed there was a late surge in investors applying for its rights issue, which closed at 3pm yesterday. A slow start led to fears that much of the £530 million issue might be left with underwriters. The final result may not be known until tomorrow. Fully paid new Eurotunnel units ended unchanged at 315p compared with 318p for existing units. The rights issue was at 285p.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.9205 (-0.0220)
German mark 2.9000 (-0.0102)
Exchange index 93.7 (-0.3)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1895.3 (+12.5)
FT-SE 100 2182.7 (+13.3)
New York Dow Jones 2569.31 (+9.66)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 22725.90 (+271.38)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 14%
3-month interbank 13 1/2%
3-month eligible bills 12 1/2%
Lib: Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 7 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 7.05-7.09%
30-year bonds 104 1/2-104 1/4

CURRENCIES

London: New York \$1.9205
Paris 6.5480
Swiss 2.4784
FF 163.602
Yen 160.73
Index 51.4
ECU 16.705120
SDR 16.735111
ECU 1.418198
SDR 1.357752

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$381.75 pm \$380.85
Close \$380.50-381.20 (7198.69-198.87)
New York: COMEX \$382.25-382.75

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan) \$30.05 bbl (\$29.20)
Denotes latest trading price

FOUR STAR RATES

Australia \$ 2.58
Austria Sch 21.45
Belgium Fr 2.35
Canada \$ 1.15
Denmark Kr 11.65
Finland Mk 10.22
France Fr 6.55
Germany DM 2.28
Greece Dr 16.50
Hong Kong \$ 1.14
Italy Lit 227.3
Japan Yen 160.73
Netherlands Gld 3.40
Norway Kr 11.65
Portugal Esc 207.50
South Africa Rd 5.30
Spain Ptas 163.60
Sweden Kr 11.65
Switzerland Fr 2.28
Turkey Lira 1.60
USA \$ 1.9205
Yugoslavia Dnr 33.00

Borrowing on credit jumps to record £4.2bn

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

CONSUMERS borrowed a record £4.23 billion on credit in October, bewildering City economists and casting doubt on evidence that the government's squeeze on inflation has reined back spenders.

The £478 million increase in new credit last month contrasted with market expectations of a small decline and took the monthly amount above the £3.98 billion record set in May.

The Treasury cautioned against reading too much into the figures, especially given the recessionary picture provided by yesterday's final data on retail sales, which confirmed a fall of 1.1 per cent in October.

But a general increase across the various categories of credit, which follows a percentage point cut in base rates on October 8, prompted a mixed

response among economists. While some were simply perplexed by the credit data, others saw them as cause for concern, as they contradict evidence provided by figures on clearing bank lending, money supply and retail sales.

Julien Callow, UK economist at Chase Investment Bank, said the credit figures suggest that people have spotted the turning point in interest rates and could be building up credit lines again.

Gerard Lyons, chief economist at DKB International, saw the credit numbers pointing to a "flight from cash" which gave grounds for a more cautious interpretation of the monetary data.

Consumers may have turned to credit cards, or have started paying them off more slowly, as this form of borrowing has become easier than

others. The Central Statistical Office said new credit advanced on bank credit cards in October was £2.51 billion, also a record, up from £2.29 billion in September. New credit advanced by finance houses and other specialist bodies to consumers was a record at £1.61 billion, after £1.35 billion.

Ian Harnett, chief economist at Strauss Turnbull, said that despite poor correlation between the credit and retail sales data, the underlying rise in consumer credit, and the fact that it was across the board, must be worrying.

Credit advanced in the three months to October was £11.68 billion, compared with £11.62 billion in the previous three months, while outstanding credit rose £905 million, after £699 million between May and July. New consumer credit grew 1 per cent on the three-month comparison. Bank card credit expanded 5 per cent over the same period.

The volume retail sales data showed a 1.1 per cent seasonally adjusted fall in October, adding to the picture of recession seen in other indicators. The retail sales index was set at 121.3, after 122.7 in September. In the latest three months, sales were 1.4 per cent below the previous three.

The credit figures had little impact in the financial markets, but the pound remained under pressure from the stronger dollar and mark.

The outcome of the German elections fuelled sentiment for the mark, as did expectations of the Bundesbank raising interest rates soon. A fall in the oil price also pushed sterling lower.

On its trade-weighted index, the pound ended 93.7, a decline of 0.3 point since Friday's close, after touching 93.9. It closed 2.20 cents down at \$1.9205 and ended 1.29 pence lower at DM2.9051. The base rate cut last month had little impact on consumer confidence, with requests for home loans showing a year-on-year fall of 6 per cent last month, after a small rise in September, according to Infolink, the credit reference agency. Retail credit requests were still down 25.1 per cent, having recovered from a 40.8 per cent fall in September.

Comment, page 27

Dollar takes a strong line

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE dollar rose sharply and the pound slipped further as dealers reacted to a sudden change in sentiment in the foreign-exchange markets as well as the continuing tension in the Gulf.

The dollar performed particularly strongly against the yen and the pound, and also made gains, though smaller, against the mark.

By early afternoon in New York, the dollar was trading at ¥134.50 and DM1.5130, compared with Friday's close of ¥132.65 and DM1.4965. The pound fell to \$1.9175 and DM2.8995.

The dollar bulls appeared to be impressed by last week's hint from Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, that the US authorities were becoming concerned about the currency's rapid fall.

For the moment, concerns about the weakness of the American economy and the stability of the country's financial system seemed to be forgotten.

There was also talk that the

Group of Seven leading industrialised countries might hold a meeting next month to plan a dollar-support operation. German and Japanese sources said there was no chance of this, insisting that the G-7 meeting would concentrate entirely on the financial impact of the Gulf conflict and the economic problems in eastern Europe.

But analysts said there had been a big change in market psychology last week and increasing numbers of traders were talking about a bull market in the dollar.

This bullish view was upheld when the currency shrugged off weak economic data published by the National Association of Purchasing Management, which said its index of economic activity fell last month to 41.3 from 43.4.

A reading below 50 indicates that the manufacturing sector is generally declining and the association said that the latest index level pointed to a decline of 0.6 per cent in the fourth quarter's gross national product.

Nadir given month's grace

By MATTHEW BOND

ASIL Nadir, chairman of Polly Pock International, has reached an initial agreement with his bank creditors, giving him a further month's grace in his battle to avoid personal bankruptcy.

Mr Nadir's courtroom accord coincided with reports of an important boost for Polly Pock's administrators. An injunction granted in October by a northern Cyprus court should be lifted today. The injunction has prevented the administrators gaining access to the company's Cypriot subsidiaries.

If the injunction is lifted, Richard Stone, a Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte partner, is likely to return immediately to northern Cyprus in an attempt

to discover just how much money is held on deposit on the island. Conflicting and confused reports have talked about up to £200 million being on deposit.

Mr Nadir's victory in the bankruptcy court means that his creditors have accepted a list of assets forwarded by Mr Nadir as security, and his plans to dispose of them to pay off his debts. Mr Nadir has always maintained that he has assets that would enable him to repay his debts, although he would require time to realise them.

Following a 25 minute private hearing, a statement was issued on behalf of Mr Nadir and the two banks seeking to recover £22 million owed by

Mr Nadir. "Mr Asil Nadir has reached an agreement with his main creditors for the provision of security in connection with the orderly discharge of his liabilities. Accordingly today's hearing has been adjourned until the first open day after January 7."

By that deadline Mr Nadir is expected to provide the banks with a formal security over the assets involved, opening the way for the bankruptcy petition to be withdrawn.

Bankruptcy proceedings were started by BZW Securities, which is owed £3.6 million by Mr Nadir. It was later joined by Lehman Brothers Securities, owed £18.5 million.

Gulliver rests from his travels

By OUR CITY STAFF

JAMES Gulliver, the former chairman of Argyll Group, is stepping down from his last chairmanship of a public company, Waverley Cameron, the Edinburgh stationery group, after a reverse takeover by BTS Group, the office equipment concern.

BTS, which is quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market, is being bought for an all-share package that values it at about £4 million. Mr Gulliver will stay on "for a suitable period" to effect the integration of the merger.

But Sandra, his management company, will not receive a performance fee for the current year, while its basic fee of more than £100,000 a year and Mr Gulliver's own management fee will not be payable once the offer is declared unconditional. There is no compensation for the termination of the management contract.

There have been reports of dissatisfaction on the part of institutional shareholders over the fees payable to Mr Gulliver and Sandra since his departure from Argyll.



Standing down: James Gulliver said the reverse takeover had been

coming in from BTS. The BTS share price has slid in recent months, from a high of more than 50p a year ago to 20p, up 5p, yesterday.

But Waverley has had the added hindrance of heavy borrowings, which helped force it into a £650,000 loss before tax in the six months to the end of September.

The offer is of 186.5 new Waverley shares for every 100 in BTS. It is accompanied by a warning that poor trading conditions were giving Waverley directors "cause for concern". BTS issued half-way figures to end-September yesterday, which showed pre-tax profits just £5,000 higher at £178,000. As usual, there is no interim dividend.

Mr Gulliver has already stepped down from four quoted company chairmanships since he quit Argyll. They are Lowndes Queensway, the collapsed furnishings retailer, Broad Street, the public relations group, and City Gate Estates and Jacksons Bourne End, the property company.



Talking money: David Money-Coutts, right, chairman of M&G, Britain's biggest unit trust group, with Paddy Linaker, managing director, after a 36 per cent dividend rise to 17p a share for the year to end-September. Mr Money-Coutts said the rise reflected confidence even though pre-tax profits grew by only 19 per cent to £28.6 million.

Tempus, page 27

More than 1m want electricity shares

By MARTIN WALLER

ALMOST a million applications have already been processed for shares in the 12 regional electricity distribution companies, with hundreds of thousands more piling up at the receiving banks.

The offer closes at 21 receiving centres around the country at 10 am tomorrow, although completed application forms and cheques can be delivered by 3.30 pm today to high street branches of Lloyds, Barclays, National Westminster, Bank of Scotland, Royal Bank of Scotland and Ulster Bank.

Applications so far have been almost entirely for shares in the potential investors' own regional companies, for which generous incentives are available.

People applying and paying by means of personal crossed cheques do not need to write their names and addresses on the back, although anyone using third-party cheques and bankers' drafts, must.

This corrects any misapprehension arising from yesterday's edition of *The Times*.

Comment, page 27

ISE may open council to more lay members

THE International Stock Exchange is considering changes which will open the way for more lay members to sit on the ruling council.

Since the ISE is unlikely to increase the size of the 32-member council, there may be a reduction in the present number of company members drawn from broking and market-making.

An interim report was considered by the council yesterday and the ISE executive will produce firm proposals in a few weeks.

The move is part of a wider debate taking place on membership and governance of the ISE, reflecting deregulation in the City since 1986.

Current thinking is that industrialists or representatives of European securities houses may be invited to join the council.

Under the SIB proposals, property funds would be allowed to invest directly in land or buildings, as well as property shares, but could also put up to 35 per cent of their funds into liquid investments, such as gilt-edged. They would need to carry a warning over liquidity.

Two types of fund could be created for futures and options. The first, which could be sold like ordinary unit trusts but not by cold-calling investors, would not be able to gear up by paying only a margin on a contract. The more risky, which could not be sold through coupons in newspapers or by cold-calling, could use 10 per cent of the fund in geared investments, enabling the fund to be geared up to 30 times. But only 2 per cent of the fund could be put into any single speculation.

Under the regulations, investors could only lose 100 per cent of their money and could not be called on to put in more money to cover losses.

Warrant funds will have the same marketing restrictions as geared futures funds.

Comment, page 27

New unit trusts plan is attacked

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE Securities and Investments Board has proposed sweeping changes in unit trust rules that will allow new types of fund to be marketed, specialising in warrants, property, and futures and options. The funds could be marketed like conventional unit trusts, investing in quoted shares, but with some restrictions or warnings about risk.

The consultative paper brings together earlier proposals by the SIB and the trade and industry department. The widening of the scope of unit trusts reflects changes allowed under the European Community directive on collective investment schemes (UCITS).

M&G, Britain's biggest unit trust group, strongly criticised the principle of bringing riskier investments into unit trusts. David Money-Coutts, the chairman, said: "If implemented, these developments run the risk of harming the good name of unit trusts."

Paddy Linaker, M&G's managing director, said: "It is a nonsense to call these unit trusts." He said that liquidity for investors to get their money back when required was an essential feature of unit trusts, which would be compromised in trusts investing directly in property. Futures and options funds would be too speculative.

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Comment, page 27

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Coin group promises to raise dividend

By MARTIN BARROW

BIRMINGHAM Mint Group, the coin minting group and specialist engineer, has promised to increase its full-year dividend from 5.5p a share to 6.5p as part of its defence against a £12.2 million cash bid by IMI, the Midlands engineer that operates Britain's only other private sector mint.

The pledge was made after Birmingham Mint reported better than expected pre-tax profits of £1.33 million for the six months to end-September, compared with losses of £599,000 for the first half of the previous financial year, and earnings of 7.7p a share, against losses of 2.7p. The interim dividend rises from 0.5p to 2.5p.

Birmingham Mint also announced the disposal of Nevins Lonsdale, its loss-making printed circuit board business, to Landtrax for an initial £500,000, with a further £200,000 due if certain profit targets are met.

Group profits were struck after an exceptional credit of £50,000 arising from the sale of the company's head office, against a charge of £507,000 last time. Extraordinary losses of £1.06 million relate principally to Nevins Lonsdale.

Birmingham Mint shares were unchanged at 82p, against IMI's offer of 85p. Tony Cross, chairman of Birmingham Mint, said: "The IMI bid entirely fails to recognise the company's recovery potential or the substantial incremental profits which could be earned from putting the two minting businesses together."

Gary Allen, chief executive of IMI, said that Birmingham Mint's promise of an increased dividend was "irresponsible action in the face of a bid".

The Office of Fair Trading has until December 24 to deliver its report on the proposed merger.

Alexon fashions a cool £10m despite inclement weather

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

ALEXON, the women's wear retailer and Marks and Spencer supplier, is weathering the economic downturn better than most fashion retailers but the group says that trading is tough in some divisions.

In the six months to end-September, pre-tax profits rose 14 per cent to £10.6 million on sales up 7 per cent at £80.7 million.

Earnings per share rose 20 per cent to 23.3p and the dividend is up 20 per cent at 6p. There was an exceptional property profit of £1.5 million against £900,000 last time.

Peter Wiegand, the group's chairman, said Alexon was still benefiting from the discipline imposed by the management team in the mid-Eighties when it took over the business.

In addition, the group is small enough to be able to increase its share in a stagnant market.

Although most retailers are reporting difficult trading conditions for tailored garments, Mr Wiegand says Alexon's customer-base is both loyal and reasonably affluent.

Dash, the leisurewear group which Alexon acquired when it bought Ellis & Goldstein in 1988, is also doing well. Like for sales at both Alexon and Dash are up 13 per cent in the current half. Easter, the

brand aimed at older women, has seen profits decrease in the first half, but the division has been relaunched with a collection for next spring that has received a good reception so far.

The manufacturing division made profits of £3.9 million at the operating level, against £3.7 million last time.

Sales at Claremont Garments, which supplies Marks



Model performance: Peter Wiegand, left, with Lawrence Snyder, chief executive

and Spencer, were flat in the first half. The group is reducing overheads and improving efficiency in an attempt to push up margins.

Alexon, which has shops in the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland and Scandinavia, is exploring other European markets for both the Alexon and Dash brands.

Gearing at the year-end is likely to be around 20 per cent

and the interest charge is covered more than ten times. Mr Wiegand says: "Within the current retail environment we are determined to maintain our growth in profits."

"Consequently, senior management is being even more aggressive in its approach to cost-cutting and overhead control."

Shares in the group were unchanged at 472p.

Hollis Harris, president and chief executive, said: "We enter Chapter 11 by necessity. It has temporarily alleviated our debt problem and will help us cope with high fuel costs. It provides us with a breathing space and I have no doubt that we will successfully emerge."

Continental estimates this year's fuel bill at \$1.1 billion, up \$231 million since Iraq invaded Kuwait. The October bill to fuel Continental's 338 planes jumped 125 per cent and in November it was still up 90 per cent. But the airline said it would not lay off any of its 37,000 workforce, nor sell any more international routes.

Paul Turk, who runs Amark, the independent airline consultancy, said: "Everyone is having a terrible year, it is just that Continental has less of a margin to cope with a downturn than others."

Mr Turk added that Continental might seek more cash from SAS, the Scandinavian airline, which almost doubled its stake in Continental last August to 16.8 per cent by buying the 7 per cent from Frank Lorenzo, the outgoing chairman. Mr Lorenzo built Texas Air during the Eighties and placed Continental in Chapter 11 protection in 1983 to break the airlines' unions.

Pan Am pilots have filed a court action to prevent the \$400 million sale of London routes by the financially strapped carrier to United Airlines, alleging Pan Am breached a contract with the union.

US airline files for Chapter 11 cover

From PHILIP ROBINSON in NEW YORK

CONTINENTAL Airline Holdings, formerly Texas Air, has gone into bankruptcy court protection from creditors for the second time in seven years, and sold its Seattle to Tokyo route to American Airlines to raise \$150 million.

Soaring fuel costs made Continental unable to pay interest on its \$6.2 billion debts and prompted bankers to end talks aimed at providing the airline with a further \$250 million of credit.

Continental, which owns Eastern Air Lines — under bankruptcy court protection since last year — says the filing, under Chapter 11 of the bankruptcy code, will not affect customers.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

City and Westminster suspended at 0.5p

SHARES in City and Westminster Group, the mini-conglomerate, have been suspended at the request of the directors. The shares were quoted at just 0.5p each at suspension. The company says it sought the suspension after running into problems in the preparation of audited accounts for the year to March. City and Westminster is suing Price Waterhouse, its former auditor, and seeking damages of more than £5 million.

The dispute with Price Waterhouse followed City and Westminster's reverse takeover of A&M, the Unilever Securities Market company, last summer. Stoy Hayward has since taken over as auditor. The company said it will report its preliminary results no later than January 24, with results for the six months to September soon after.

Purchases by BAT sells

PERKINS Foods, the acquisitive group that moved from the US to the main market in May, is spending £14.7 million on two frozen food businesses. Perkins is buying Enco, a Dutch manufacturer of frozen convenience foods, for £8 million, and Felside Foods, a company that manufactures frozen sausages, for £6.7 million.

Chamberlin suffering

CHAMBERLIN & Hill, the foundry operator and electrical engineer, suffered a decline in first-half profits and gave warning that profits for the year as a whole are likely to fall short of last year's figure.

The shares lost 10p to 85p. Pre-tax profits declined by 14 per cent from £1.02 million to £876,000 in the six months to end-September, on turnover down by 3 per cent from £9.75 million to £9.47 million. Earnings per share fell from 9.32p to 7.98p, although the interim dividend is maintained at 1.75p.

Timber group EC approves

PHOENIX Timber Group has cut its interim dividend after a pre-tax loss of £379,000 in the six months to end-September (£479,000 profit) on turnover down 14 per cent from £36.1 million to £31 million. There was a 2.8p loss per share (earnings of 2.9p). The interim dividend has been cut from 1.1p to 0.5p. The shares lost 3p to 57p.

Bell loss at £268m

BELL Group, the Bond Corp Holdings subsidiary, reported an Aus\$672 million (£268 million) loss for the 15 months to October. The latest unaudited results mean Bell Group has accumulated Aus\$944 million of losses since June 1988. The company's survival now depends on a restructuring, which involves the swapping of debt for equity by bondholders.

Bell's next date for payment on one series of its convertible bonds is Monday, but the group has scheduled a meeting of bondholders in London tomorrow to consider a proposal to defer interest payments for six months. The company said Lloyds Corporate Advisory Services, its financial adviser, expected the debt-for-equity scheme to be completed by March at the earliest.

SD-Scicon changes surprise market

PHILIP Swinstead, executive chairman of SD-Scicon, the software group where British Aerospace has a 25 per cent stake, is also becoming chief executive (Philip Pangalos writes).

He is taking over from Ian Scoggins and Geoff Holmes, the joint chief executives. Mr Scoggins will become deputy chief executive, with responsibility for marketing, while Mr Holmes will remain on the board in a non-executive role.

The market was surprised by the changes and wondered about British Aerospace's role, if any, in the changes. SD-Scicon, which made pre-tax losses of £9.8 million in the half year to end-June, after exceptional provisions covering losses on a number of fixed-price contracts, recently announced restructuring plans.

Mr Swinstead said: "It has been a difficult two years since the merger of SD and Scicon. I shall concentrate my efforts on managing the UK business with a view to returning to the pattern of continuous revenue and profit growth."

The shares, which traded at a high of 85p earlier in the year, were unchanged at 26p.

Judge spells out firms' pension duty

EMPLOYERS have a duty to act in good faith when making decisions affecting the pension rights of present and former employees, Sir Nicholas Browne-Wilkinson, the Vice-Chancellor, has said.

He ruled that Imperial Tobacco, Hanson's Bristol subsidiary, must not look solely to its own financial interests when deciding whether to consent to future inflation-linked pension increases for the 26,500 members of the £1.3 billion Imperial Tobacco pension fund, which has a surplus of at least £130 million.

The case arose after Imperial Tobacco indicated it would refuse to consent to increases above a 5 per cent ceiling. Sir Nicholas said the company must act in such a way as not to destroy or seriously damage the relationship of confidence between employer and employee.

The company had denied saying it would refuse future increases above 5 per cent, but that had been the basis on which the fund's management committee had acted and on which it had recommended members to transfer into a new retirement scheme.

The pensions group suspected the company was refusing in order to achieve a transfer of the fund's surplus into its hands. "In the absence of any other explanation, this is a fair inference," Sir Nicholas said. If correct, it would indicate the company was using its right to withhold consent not for the purpose of continuing to use the assets exclusively for pensions but for some other collateral purpose and it would be acting unlawfully.

STOCK MARKET

Turnover kept off low for year by two trades worth £180m

ONLY the execution of two programme trades, estimated to be worth a combined £180 million, prevented turnover in the equity market falling to its lowest level of the year.

BZW is thought to have been responsible for one trade worth more than £80 million, while Warburg Securities had its name linked to the other. Dealers said the trades, which involved several institutions switching out of various sectors and into others, accounted for almost 70 per cent of the total business transacted. By the close of business only 326 million shares had been traded.

Dealers complained that the electricity flotation was taking up the interest of most investors at the expense of the rest of the equity market.

But sentiment remained firm. Hopes of a peaceful solution in the Gulf, a drop in the oil price and hopes of an early cut in base rates lifted the FT-SE 100 index 13.1 points to 2,169.6. The narrower FT index of 30 shares also added 12.5 to 1,695.3.

Government securities saw gains of 2½ p, amid concern about a possible rise in German interest rates.

Eurotunnel closed unchanged at 318p while the warrants firmed 1p to 26p as the deadline for the take-up of its £533 million rights issue was reached.

Poor expectations of Christmas trading led to a downgrading of forecasts by several brokers for both Cadbury Schweppes, down 3p to 317p, and United Biscuits, 3p lighter at 308p. Cadbury Schweppes has had its estimates for the current year reduced by some £10 million to about £275 million and for

next time by £15 million to £315 million. UB has seen its final figure this time round trimmed by £3 million to £198 million and for 1991 by £10 million to £215 million.

Glaxo responded to the launch of Serenit, its new anti-asthma drug, after approval by the government, with a rise of 24p to 839p. A recent article in *The Lancet*, the medical journal, claimed

Siebe, the instrument controls group, rose 12p to 298p before today's interim figures that are expected to show pre-tax profits up from £80.8 million to £86 million. In June, the shares were trading about the 530p level. Reports last weekend suggest that Barrie Stephens, chairman and chief executive, may be under increasing institutional pressure to relinquish one of his roles.

A profits upgrading by Smith New Court, the stockbroker, also lifted George Wimpey, the housebuilder, 3p cheaper at 209p.

Shares of Brest Walker, the debt laden leisure group headed by George Walker, touched 98p before settling at 91p, a rise of 3p on the day. After the successful completion of the group's £103 million convertible bond issue. Earlier attempts at placing the stock failed with the

group falling £20 million short of its target.

The water companies enjoyed another burst of institutional support as they became caught up in the excitement generated by the electricity flotation. Anglian, unveiling interim figures today, rose to 271p, while Yorkshire, with figures tomorrow, firmed 2p to 269p. There were also gains for Northumbria, 1p to 267p, North West, 6p to 258p, Severn Trent, 7p to 232p, Southern, 7p to 241p, South West, 2p to 258p, Thames, 3p to 258p, Welsh, 4p to 280p, and Wessex, 2p to 247p. The water capex jumped £60 to £2,565.

Hopes of a 1 per cent cut in bank base rates before the end of the week boosted the property sector, although there are doubts among analysts that this will be enough to halt the slide in property values and ease the burden of the highly geared companies. Gains were seen in Bradford Properties, 3p to 111p, Brixton Estates, 5p to 162p, Frogmore Estates, 5p to 303p, Great Portland, 10p to 234p, Greystock, 13p to 391p, Hammerson 'A', 12p to 588p, Land Securities, 14p to 534p, MEPC, 15p to 522p, and Slough Estates, 4p to 230p.

British Gas eased 2½p to 229p despite an encouraging progress report from the group's Wards prospect in the Gulf of Suez. Initial tests are described as promising but will continue until the end of the year.

Tiphook, the container and trailer rental group, rallied 10p to 361p ahead of interim figures on Thursday.

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MICHAEL CLARK

WALL STREET

Dow edges higher

NEW YORK Shares continued firm in mid-morning trading, but blue chips sank from session highs, hit by futures-related program selling and profit-taking.

A weak November purchasing managers' index had little effect on prices. "I wouldn't

call it a surprise," Michael Metz, market strategist at Oppenheimer and Co, said of the index, which came in at 41.3 per cent, against an expected 42.8 per cent.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up 2.73 points at 2,562.38. (Reuters)

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COMPANY BRIEFS

ACAL (Int) Pre-tax: £2.18m (£1.99m) EPS: 10.1p (8.4p) Div: 1.8p (1.55p)

FABER PREST (Fin) Pre-tax: £4.85m (£4.67m) EPS: 34.56p (32.47p) Div: 7.7p (7.2p)

MARINA DEVELOPMENTS Pre-tax: £2.18m (£2.80m) EPS: 10.5p (10.9p) Div: 5p (5p)

FLAGSTONE HDGS (Int) Pre-tax: £10,000 loss LPS: 0.30p (EPS: 0.28p) Div: Nil

THWAITES (DANIEL) (Int) Pre-tax: £1.8m (£2.85m) EPS: 5.5p (8.9p) Div: 0.4p (0.4p)

SYLTONE (Int) Pre-tax: £1.11m (£0.98m) EPS: 8.2p (7.7p) Div: 3.0p (2.0p)

GRANWICK MILL (Int) Pre-tax: £553,000 EPS: 5.2p (4.2p) Div: 2.00p (1.85p)

ELGA GROUP (Int) Pre-tax: £304,000 EPS: 2.05p (1.73p) Div: 0.5p (0.5p)

TEX HOLDINGS (Int) Pre-tax: £17,000 loss EPS: 0.3p (1.1p) Div: Nil (3.1p)

ROLFE & NOLAN (Int) Pre-tax: £681,000 EPS: 8.0p (6.4p) Div: 2.1p (1.6p)

GUNDEE & LONDON INV Pre-tax: £2.79m (£2.44m) EPS: 12.22p (10.70p) Div: 8.2p (7.0p)

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES: NEPC 523p (+15p) Land Sec 532p (+14p) Barclays 377p (+8p) Guinness 735p (+8p) Biff Shop 158p (+10p)

FALLS: Jones & Newton 35p (-10p) BICO 337p (-8p) Tophook 361p (-10p) Micro Focus 742p (-10p) Carlton Comm 358p (+14p)

BRITISH LAND 258p (+8p) Great Portland 350p (+13p) Greycoat 350p (+13p)

Hammerson 'A' 587p (+12p) Wills Comms 250p (+10p) Rothmans 'B' 73p (+10p)

FALLS: Eya Holdings 850p (-25p) Computer People 155p (-7p) Wentworth Holdings 640p (-10p) Clasp prices

MAJOR INDICES

NEW YORK: S&P Composite 324.37 (+2.15) Tokyo: Nikkei Average 22725.99 (+271.38)

HONG KONG: Hang Seng 3020.17 (+55.11) FT-SE EUROSTOCK 973.55 (+14.74)

SYDNEY: AO 56.9 (+1.2) Sydney: AO 56.9 (+1.2) Frankfurt DAX 1482.58 (+21.35)

BRUSSELS: CMC 431.14 (+5.44) Zurich: S&K 488.7 (+6.4)

FT-AK-SHARE 1038.80 (+5.69) FT-500 1141.66 (+5.97)

FT Gold Mines 157.6 (-2.6) FT Gold Shares 30.13 (+0.10)

FT Govt Secs 82.56 (-0.02) FT Govt Secs 82.56 (-0.02)

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Vivid colour in electric grey market

COMMENT

There comes a stage when success starts to look embarrassing, and if dealings in the unofficial "grey market" in electricity shares are anything to go by, that stage is fast approaching for advisers to the electricity float.

Cheques totalling £500 million have already piled up at the receiving banks, chasing shares worth not much more than £2 billion in their part-paid form, even before the stage come in, which on past form will be during the last two or three days before the offer closes.

So far, the average investment is for a relatively modest £500 partly paid, and more than 90 per cent are for shares in the potential investor's own regional electricity company. Most of those applications, therefore, will be met in full, if the pattern of last year's water float is followed.

But the stage will see the "grey market" dealings, where the average indicated premium is 33 per cent part-paid ranging up to 37 per cent for one of the 12 companies, Northern, as a clear signal of easy pickings. This then becomes a self-fulfilling

prophecy, as all 12 are oversubscribed, clawback provisions go into effect, and the institutions scramble around in the after-market for a decent portfolio.

The advisers to the float have had to walk a difficult tightrope. Uncertainty over the Gulf was nullified by the inclusion of a proper force majeure which handed over control to the City, while the market has risen by 100 points since the issue was priced. If the distributors go to the hefty per cent premiums enjoyed by the water companies, the relevant politicians and civil servants can look forward to an interesting few hours in front of the Public Accounts Committee in a few months' time.

More importantly for the City, there is a coterie within the Department of Energy that has always been convinced that water was given away and has been keen not to repeat the mistake. Their hand would be strength-

ened if the distributors roar away to a massive premium, with inevitable consequences for the sale of the generators next year and British Coal thereafter.

Another blip?

Few Chancellors can have entered office with so many economic indicators signalling that government policy is working. When he took the Treasury helm last week, Norman Lamont could certainly draw comfort from the received wisdom in the City and Whitehall that the anecdotal and statistical evidence was all pointing one way. The counter-inflationary squeeze put in place by his forerunner-but-one was seen by all bar the extreme sceptics to be at last delivering

the right sort of numbers, albeit at the price of recession.

Indeed, published figures show both high street and edge-of-town superstores red with the blood of hemorrhaging retailers. Unemployment is again on the rise and output in retreat. Even the money supply, long a source of difficulty for the Treasury, is finally doing the right thing.

The breathtaking slowdown in the growth of M0, the narrow money measure still officially targeted, would suggest the ultimate confirmation that the consumer is reining back hard. That was until yesterday's joker from the Central Statistical Office, which could spoil Mr Lamont's promising hand of patience. The question perplexing economists, and doubtless the Chancellor, is how consumer credit could surge to a

record £4.23 billion in October when all else told us that consumers have reined back hard. Another "blip", perhaps?

For all the Bank of England's semaphor, the money markets remain convinced that a base rate cut is imminent. But if credit growth has resumed an upward path, any calculations Mr Lamont has done on base rate cuts, with a view to bringing mortgage rates down next month, must be rapidly reworked. The Chancellor's "honeymoon" could be over already.

Disharmony

The traditional British unit trust may prove to be one of the least expected but most regretted victims of European harmonisation. The SIB's proposals to bring in all sorts of exotic new funds reflects twin pressures from the EC UCITS directive and the plans of Paris

and Luxembourg to steal a march on London as a financial centre. The directive allows much national discretion over investment rules, while giving a passport to sell in any member country. Luxembourg has attracted promoters by being irresponsibly liberal. Paris has used its discretion to boost the local futures and options market to rival Liff.

This has produced much nonsense. Funds investing in property may be classed as unit trusts though valuations can differ by 100 per cent and liquidity is not as high as many a receiver would like. Gambles on futures and options are given tax concessions as though they promoted wider share ownership. The proposed marketing restrictions are wholly inadequate. Investors will suffer and an honourable industry that has served savers well will be tarnished.

The pressures cannot be wished away, but these proposals should be rethought even at this late stage. At the very least, such funds should not be allowed to masquerade as unit trusts.

LORD McCarthy of Headington, Labour's principal Lords employment spokesman, has recommended acceptance of the closure of Rover's Cowley plant in Oxford, Britain's longest-standing car factory.

While this might seem odd advice from a senior Labour figure, Lord McCarthy's report, published yesterday by Oxford City Council, is curious only because it is starkly realistic about the company's closure plans, and painfully pragmatic about what to do about them. As British industry braces itself for what could be a savage round of shutdowns in the wake of last week's announcement of two factory closures in the military division by British Aerospace, Rover's parent, the McCarthy report is a model example, not of taking it on the chin, but of trying to do something about the blow when it comes.

Cars have been built at Cowley, where the Maestro and Montego models are nearing the end of their production lives, virtually since William Morris opened his first factory in Oxford in 1913. Rover, however, with a long-term decline in its market share, has over-capacity in Britain. Eighteen months ago, the company gave notice of its plan to close the south works at Cowley, and followed it last year with a similar announcement for the north works.

The total job losses since the closure announcements until the units shut in 1993 could number about 5,000, even allowing for £130 million of investment for executive Rover cars in the old body plant.

Faced with what it saw as the near-total closure of motor manufacture in the city, Oxford City Council decided to pre-empt at least some of the inevitable hardship by commissioning an independent report on the plant, chaired by Lord McCarthy and including panelists such as Sir Monty Finniston, former chairman of British Steel, and Anthony Christopher, a past president of the TUC.

Lord McCarthy's report makes rough reading for some council left-wingers. He looks at three options: opposing closure; finding another motor

McCarthy's plan throws a lifeline to Cowley



Lord McCarthy: 'Cowley is a site made in Heaven'

company to take over the plant, and creating an unfettered business park on the site — and rejects them all. Lord McCarthy, looking at outright opposition, the policy adopted by the city council that commissioned his work, said bluntly: "We conclude that this position is untenable." Opposition like this, the report said, could not muster commercial or political power, and would endanger the possibility of constructive talks with the company about the plant's future.

What Lord McCarthy pro-

poses instead is "the only realistic way forward": a deal, a new symbiosis between the council — regarded privately by the company as more difficult than the other local authorities with which it deals — and the company, designed to save at least some declining manufacturing capacity in the city.

The council is urged to set up agreements with Rover and Arlington Securities, the property development subsidiary acquired by BAE. If the council makes development of the Cowley site easier, does not

try to bring in a compulsory purchase order and especially looks at change-of-use planning applications with a favourable mind, Rover might phase in the closures and pay more than £2 million into a specially established Cowley contingency fund to ease the transition and training of the workforce at the plant.

For Rover, the prize is worth having. Oxford City Council values estimate that a mixed commercial, residential and retail development at Cowley could put a value of up to £50 million on the site, a prime piece of southeast real estate. "From a developer's point of view," Lord McCarthy said yesterday, "this site was made in Heaven."

Cowley's unions are supporting the plan. Ivor Braggins, TGWU convenor, said: "In a realistic world, you cannot expect the company to continue employment if it can't produce cars and sell them in the market place."

But the council, while accepting Lord McCarthy's advice, tried to appease a range of internal political views by attempting to hold on to the fig-leaf of "conditional" opposition. That can be avoided by the company simply not taking up the McCarthy plan, but Rover was positive yesterday, praising the realism of what is being suggested. A formal meeting between Rover and the council to start talks is likely.

Lord McCarthy was optimistic, despite the last-minute operational difficulties of the council's political manoeuvrings. While accepting that the current recession made a new start for Cowley even more difficult, he looked to the future.

He said: "This is a long-term development. If the work was put in now, then when the upturn came, Cowley would benefit."

He had no doubts. He said: "This site at Cowley will participate in the economic recovery."

PHILIP BASSETT
Industrial Editor

Ray of light in Westland black hole

TEMPUS

WESTLAND is in the darkest depths of the infamous black hole for helicopter orders that prompted the departure from cabinet of Michael Heseltine and changed the course of British politics.

But while helicopter orders remain scarce, Westland has not been short of ideas about squeezing better returns from its workload.

A handsome set of full-year figures showed profits up 27 per cent at £26.2 million and earnings per share up 16 per cent at 12.4p.

But perhaps the most pleasing news for shareholders was a higher final dividend of 2.5p per share, the first increase since the group returned to the dividend list in 1987. It lifts total payout to 3.75p against 3.5p last time, a 7 per cent rise.

The dividend boost is a fair reflection of rising profits this year and last, but it might also help shore up Westland's shares which have slipped from a high of 152p earlier this year to 105p, up 3p on the day.

GKN sits passively on a potentially vital 22 per cent stake and takeover talk will return when the group emerges from its black hole. When that will be is not clear, though by next year the Ministry of Defence is expected to place an order for 50 Royal Navy EH101s and Italy is thought to want 38. A Saudi order for 88 Black Hawks is part of the Al Yamamah project. Work could begin soon, but the date is clouded by events in the Gulf.

Westland delivered 14 helicopters in the year to end-September compared with 18

last time, but with several hundred aircraft in service its customer support and spares business held trading profit from the division at £19.2 million, close to the previous year's £19.7 million.

Aerospace activities performed strongly with profits up 66 per cent to £5.8 million while the third division of Westland's business, technologies, raised profits from £8 million to £9.6 million.

Higher margins and lower gearing provide evidence that Westland is a much tighter ship than in the past but a rising tax charge will keep fully diluted earnings flat next year at around 10.4p.

The shares, on a prospective multiple of 11, look safe but dull.

M&G

M&G is rightly seen as the quality company in the fund management business, not least because it has combined old-fashioned virtues with market success over the long haul. In a year combining a good first half and a poor last few months, when investors spurned the sagging stock market, M&G still managed a 19 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £35.7 million.

That was helped by the high quality life profits, up a quarter to £6.5 million, and by keeping £20 million of its corporate cash on deposit, helping investment income rise 29 per cent to £7.1

million. But unit trust and other fund management profits were still up 14 per cent, helped by growth in Peps and slightly higher charges.

The shares rose 10p to 358p because the 36 per cent dividend rise to 17p per share was even better than expected after the interim payment. Dividends have virtually doubled in two years, but are still covered 1.9 times. M&G explains this as following its own advice to companies. But it was really a catching up exercise after caution in the wake of the 1987 crash sent cover to three times.

Over ten years, earnings and dividends have both grown at a compound rate of 29 per cent. That explains the shares' rating of 11.2 times earnings with a 6.3 per cent yield, which is also justified by the value of the life business.

The unit trust market is still slack, despite the expected end of season boost to Peps applications. But, to do at all well this year, M&G needs the public to share institutions' renewed fondness for equities. M&G has given a lead by switching most of its cash back into its own unit trusts. Long-term investors should not find the shares expensive.

Dobson Park

THESE are hard times for the engineering sector and Dobson Park Industries is no exception. Despite hefty restructuring

costs, taxable profits were maintained at £19.5 million last year, against £19.2 million. But Alan Kaye, chief executive, left the City in little doubt that trading conditions would continue to deteriorate and that the current year threatened to be extremely difficult.

Profits came in ahead of expectations despite a charge of £2.84 million to cover redundancy and restructuring costs. Several other factors worked in the company's favour during the second half.

Orders from British Coal late in the year helped the mining equipment division return profits of £7.26 million, against £8.19 million, disguising a much flatter picture. Advance payment of £7 million on an American mining equipment contract reduced borrowing levels and the associated interest charge while property profits rose from £871,000 to £2.09 million.

Gearing was cut from 40 per cent to 12.3 per cent but there is evidence of more pain to come. Almost all growth within industrial electronics, which returned profits up from £7.3 million to £8.1 million, was attributable to acquisitions.

Analysis will be surprised if profits this year exceed £16.5 million, suggesting an 18 per cent fall in earnings to 9.3p a share. On the bright side, the shares, up 3p to 64p, offer a yield of 12 per cent on a flat dividend. The prospective multiple of almost nine is about right. Too early to buy but existing shareholders should sit tight.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Lowson joins County team

COUNTY NatWest has won another victory in the bid to build up its fledgling derivatives arm by poaching Piers Lowson, top futures and options associate at James Capel, to join its team in Edinburgh. Lowson, who joined Capel in 1987, has made his name in the field of options research, and is advising the Securities and Investments Board on a new regime for futures and options funds in Britain. "I am now looking forward to a holiday," says Lowson, aged 26, who resigned yesterday and joins County as an associate director in January — at the same time as Andrew Barrie, a former colleague at Capel, who resigned from the firm in August. They will both be working with Robert Mapstone, former head of UK derivatives at Warburg Securities, who is running the fast-expanding division. Lowson and Barrie will also be reunited with another past colleague — Graham Corrie, who left Capel for Kleinwort Benson, and is now head dealer at County. And there is a further academic touch to it all, since County's consultant on quantitative research — Dr Jan Kwiatkowski — worked with Lowson in 1987, while he was studying portfolio theory as a

THE electricity privatisation is set to be an overwhelming success if City trends are anything to go by. For the London Wall branch of Ryman's, the stationer, was completely sold out of pins yesterday — to the frustration of punters who hoped to pin sizeable cheques to their application forms.

Young at heart

ERNST & Young, one of the largest firms of accountants in America, has dismissed talk that it is about to file for bankruptcy protection. And it says it is just coincidence that it has spent \$250,000 on six upbeat advertisements in large newspapers, thanking everyone for their support. Talk that the firm is about to seek Chapter 11 protection stems from potentially large legal claims over past audits of two large collapsed Savings & Loan Associations. The Fed-



eral Deposit Insurance Corporation, the depositors' watchdog, has already filed a \$560 million action against the firm, and it faces further action for its role in the fall of Lincoln Savings, the largest S&L collapse in America. Ernst & Young say it is blameless in these cases and was scrupulous with its audits. The firm's 2,000 American partners, meanwhile, seem oblivious to their plight. They spent the weekend at Disney World in Florida, celebrating the first anniversary of the merger with Arthur Young.

ALL the rage among stockbrokers in New York looking for an unusual Christmas present... fur ear-muffs, ideal for a spouse or girlfriend's personal stereo speakers. Made from golden sable, they sell for \$1,000 a pair.

Warming to theme

INSTEAD of joining the queue to buy electricity shares, Frank might be better off spending the money on insulating his castle, according to Friends of the Earth. The charity claims spending on cavity wall and loft insulation can offer an annual return of £30 for every £100 they cost — the same yield claimed by Kleinwort Benson for electricity shares in their first year on the market. That return will

Frank has been kept in the dark about it," says Simon Roberts, FoE's energy campaigner.

AN EMBARRASSING correction to the South East Electricity Board's Christmas quiz has just been circulated to thousands of households. They had missed a "c" out of Electricity.

Champions Capel

THE rough and tumble of the dealing room found its way to the football pitch this weekend, when James Capel and Barclays de Zoete Wedd challenged each other to a game of soccer — in New York. And while Capel beat their old rivals 4-3, BZW more than made up for it in other ways. "They definitely won in terms of injuries inflicted," says Ray "Gazza" Kelly, director of UK sales at Capel's New York office, who captained the event and is now nursing a swollen ankle for his efforts. Other Capels casualties include Nick Howard and Gary Webb, who barely made it to the firm's offices in the Chrysler building to catch the first trades. The Capel team, resplendent in their red and white colours, hope to tackle other British firms in New York — as soon as they recover from their wounds. Kelly was reluctant to name his aggressors. Jim O'Neill head...

THE TIMES GUIDE TO 1992

BRITAIN IN A EUROPE WITHOUT FRONTIERS A Comprehensive Handbook

by RICHARD OWEN and MICHAEL DYNES

THE 1990 REVISED AND EXPANDED EDITION of the only handbook to provide clear and straightforward information on all aspects of the single European Market.

£7.95

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1993						1994						1995						1996						
High		Low		Company		High		Low		Company		High		Low		Company		High		Low		Company		
Bid	Offer	Change	in p	%	P/E	Bid	Offer	Change	in p	%	P/E	Bid	Offer	Change	in p	%	P/E	Bid	Offer	Change	in p	%	P/E	
17	17	0	0	0	0	17	17	0	0	0	0	17	17	0	0	0	0	17	17	0	0	0	0	0
18	18	0	0	0	0	18	18	0	0	0	0	18	18	0	0	0	0	18	18	0	0	0	0	0
19	19	0	0	0	0	19	19	0	0	0	0	19	19	0	0	0	0	19	19	0	0	0	0	0
20	20	0	0	0	0	20	20	0	0	0	0	20	20	0	0	0	0	20	20	0	0	0	0	0
21	21	0	0	0	0	21	21	0	0	0	0	21	21	0	0	0	0	21	21	0	0	0	0	0
22	22	0	0	0	0	22	22	0	0	0	0	22	22	0	0	0	0	22	22	0	0	0	0	0
23	23	0	0	0	0	23	23	0	0	0	0	23	23	0	0	0	0	23	23	0	0	0	0	0
24	24	0	0	0	0	24	24	0	0	0	0	24	24	0	0	0	0	24	24	0	0	0	0	0
25	25	0	0	0	0	25	25	0	0	0	0	25	25	0	0	0	0	25	25	0	0	0	0	0
26	26	0	0	0	0	26	26	0	0	0	0	26	26	0	0	0	0	26	26	0	0	0	0	0
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28	28	0	0	0	0	28	28	0	0	0	0	28	28	0	0	0	0	28	28	0	0	0	0	0
29	29	0	0	0	0	29	29	0	0	0	0	29	29	0	0	0	0	29	29	0	0	0	0	0
30	30	0	0	0	0	30	30	0	0	0	0	30	30	0	0	0	0	30	30	0	0	0	0	0
31	31	0	0	0	0	31	31	0	0	0	0	31	31	0	0	0	0	31	31	0	0	0	0	0
32	32	0	0	0	0	32	32	0	0	0	0	32	32	0	0	0	0	32	32	0	0	0	0	0
33	33	0	0	0	0	33	33	0	0	0	0	33	33	0	0	0	0	33	33	0	0	0	0	0
34	34	0	0	0	0	34	34	0	0	0	0	34	34	0	0	0	0	34	34	0	0	0	0	0
35	35	0	0	0	0	35	35	0	0	0	0	35	35	0	0	0	0	35	35	0	0	0	0	0
36	36	0	0	0	0	36	36	0	0	0	0	36	36											

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES					OTHER STERLING RATES	
Market rates for December 3						
	Range	Close	1 month	3 month		
New York	1,820.01-1,838.00	1,820.01-1,821.00	0.06-0.019p	2.42-2.37p	Argentina austral	955.0/-0.880p
London	2,358.24-2,362.00	2,358.24-2,359.00	0.00-0.32sp	0.00-0.43sp	Australia dollar	2,466.7-2,467.0
Paris	3,270.00-3,272.00	3,272.00-3,273.00	0.00-0.01p	0.00-0.01p	Bahian cruzeiro	278.0-278.1
Brussels	59.73-60.04	59.73-60.01	33-32p	39-39p	Cyprus pound	0.873-0.874
Copenhagen	11,037.81-11,174.7	11,037.81-11,122.6	4-5p	8p-7p	Danish krone	16.02-16.04
Dublin	1,282.00-1,283.00	1,282.00-1,283.00	4-5p	8p-7p	Hong Kong dollar	227.15-230.35
Frankfurt	2,938.00-2,950.00	2,938.2-2,950.0	11-11p	9-11p	Malaysian ringgit	16.000-16.000
London	254.31-255.00	254.50-255.5	8-11p	10-11p	Kuwait dirham	34.393-34.394
Lyons	183.7-184.00	183.7-184.0	4-5p	4-5p	Mexican peso	5.193-5.193
Milan	2,177.29-2,198.11	2,177.29-2,191.30	3-1p	4-5p	New Zealand dollar	3.1470-3.159
Oslo	11,305.9-11,318.11	11,309.9-11,310	2p-2p	3p-4p	Saudi Arabian riyal	3.1715-3.1715
Stockholm	17,777.81-17,811.1	17,777.81-17,811.1	3p-3p	3p-3p	South African rand	2.0175-2.0175
Switzerland	10,841.31-10,848	10,841.31-10,891	1p-1p	3p-3p	S Africa rand (old)	8.9189-8.9189
Tokyo	257.27-259.04	257.27-257.57	1p-1p	3p-3p	S Africa rand (new)	4.8381-4.8381
Zurich	2,478.24-2,485.6	2,478.24-2,480	11-11p	2p-2p		

Premiums in pils. Differentials in pils.
 *London Bank Rates quoted by
 Lloyd's Bankers' Market.

Singapore	1,722S-1,723S	Germany	1,506S-1,507S	Belgium (Corn)	31,10-31,19
Malaysia	2,690S-2,690S	Switzerland	1,288T-1,289A	Hong Kong	7,800T-7,805S
Australia	1,281T-1,282S	Netherlands	1,697A-1,698A	Portugal	132,4S-132,8S
Canada	1,165A-1,166A	France	5,087S-5,092S	Spain	96,40-96,50
Sweden	5,837T-5,840S	Japan	133,8S-133,9S	Austria	10,58-10,60
Norway	5,892S-5,893S				

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank, GTS, and Euxine

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LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES					
	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
FT-SE 100	2517.5	2522.5	2512.5	2519.0	2790
Three Month Sterl	91.75	91.85	91.65	91.75	100
Three Month Euro	255.0	255.0	255.0	255.0	5
Three Month Swiss	86.75	86.85	86.75	86.75	11337
Three Month Japanese	91.50	91.50	91.50	91.50	4537
Three Month Canadian	82.50	82.50	82.50	82.50	5075
Three Month Euro Dm	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Sfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Yfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Bfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Lit	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Pfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Sfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Yfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Bfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Lit	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Pfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Sfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Yfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Bfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Lit	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Pfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Sfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Yfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Bfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Lit	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Pfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Sfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Yfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Bfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Lit	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Pfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Sfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Yfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Bfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Lit	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Pfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Sfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Yfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Bfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Lit	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Pfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Sfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Yfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Bfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Lit	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Pfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Sfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Yfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Bfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Lit	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Pfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Sfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Yfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Bfr	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Lit	90.75	90.75	90.75	90.75	100
Three Month Euro Pfr	90.75	90.75	90.75</		

LONDON FORT		LONDON METAL EXCHANGE			
COCOA		OFFICIAL PRICES/TONNES PREVIOUS DAY		RUDOLF WOLFF	
Dec 989-080	API Futures	Cash		3 months	
Jan 990-080	Nov 997-785	(2 tonnes)			
Mar 991-080	Mar 991-755				
Jul 991-776	Jul 991-776				
TIN		Copper Grade A		1250.0-1285.0	
API Futures	API Futures	1324.0-1330.0		1301.0-1302.0	
Dec 989-080	Dec 989-080	348.0-349.0		481.50	
Jan 990-080	Jan 990-080	348.0-349.0		794.00	
Mar 991-080	Mar 991-080	1240.0-1241.0		1225.0-1226.0	
Jul 991-776	Jul 991-776	5690-5695		5910-5915	
API Futures	API Futures	1489.0-1490.0		1524.0-1525.0	
Dec 989-080	Dec 989-080	8025.0-8030.0		8085.0-8100.0	
Jan 990-080	Jan 990-080	1.00		1.00	
Mar 991-080	Mar 991-080	1.00		1.00	
Jul 991-776	Jul 991-776	1.00		1.00	
API Futures	API Futures	1.00		1.00	
Dec 989-080	Dec 989-080	1.00		1.00	
Jan 990-080	Jan 990-080	1.00		1.00	
Mar 991-080	Mar 991-080	1.00		1.00	
Jul 991-776	Jul 991-776	1.00		1.00	
API Futures	API Futures	1.00		1.00	
Dec 989-080	Dec 989-080	1.00		1.00	
Jan 990-080	Jan 990-080	1.00		1.00	
Mar 991-080	Mar 991-080	1.00		1.00	
Jul 991-776	Jul 991-776	1.00		1.00	
API Futures	API Futures	1.00		1.00	
Dec 989-080	Dec 989-080	1.00		1.00	
Jan 990-080	Jan 990-080	1.00		1.00	
Mar 991-080	Mar 991-080	1.00		1.00	
Jul 991-776	Jul 991-776	1.00		1.00	
API Futures	API Futures	1.00		1.00	
Dec 989-080	Dec 989-080	1.00		1.00	
Jan 990-080	Jan 990-080	1.00		1.00	
Mar 991-080	Mar 991-080	1.00		1.00	
Jul 991-776	Jul 991-776	1.00		1.00	
API Futures	API Futures	1.00		1.00	
Dec 989-080	Dec 989-080	1.00		1.00	
Jan 990-080	Jan 990-080	1.00		1.00	
Mar 991-080	Mar 991-080	1.00		1.00	
Jul 991-776	Jul 991-776	1.00		1.00	
API Futures	API Futures	1.00		1.00	
Dec 989-080	Dec 989-080	1.00		1.00	
Jan 990-080	Jan 990-080	1.00		1.00	
Mar 991-080	Mar 991-080	1.00		1.00	
Jul 991-776	Jul 991-776	1.00			

[illegible]

هكذا من الاصل

Portfolio
PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Index
1	Stoveley	Industrials S-Z	
2	William Hides (as)	Industrials S-Z	
3	P & G Old (as)	Transport	
4	Brixton	Property	
5	GKN (as)	Industrials E-K	
6	Kingfisher (as)	Draperies	
7	Formanite	Draperies	
8	Warburg SG	Bank, Discount	
9	Lough	Chemicals, Plastics	
10	Laird	Industrials L-R	
11	Dalgety (as)	Food	
12	Barclays (as)	Bank, Discount	
13	Yale & Vior	Industrials S-Z	
14	Hawthorn	Bank, Discount	
15	Tennant	Industrials S-Z	
16	Reuten (as)	Industrials L-R	
17	Assoc Br Ports	Transport	
18	BICC (as)	Electricals	
19	Hilldown (as)	Food	
20	Wellcome (as)	Industrials S-Z	
21	Br Land (as)	Property	
22	Mersey Docks	Transport	
23	Severn Trent	Water	
24	BET Ord (as)	Industrials A-D	
25	Br Vita	Industrials A-D	
26	Yorkshire Chem	Chemicals, Plastics	
27	Flagstar	Property	
28	Cable Wireless (as)	Electricals	
29	Nu-Sort	Industrials L-R	
30	Fisons (as)	Industrials E-K	
31	Clythir	Industrials E-K	
32	North West	Water	
33	Bulmer (H F)	Breweries	
34	High Point	Industrials E-K	
35	Br Airways (as)	Transport	
36	Simon Eng	Industrials S-Z	
37	BAA (as)	Transport	
38	Sharn Water	Water	
39	News Corp	Newspapers, Pub	
40	Wolstenholme Rink	Chemicals, Plastics	
41	ECC Group (as)	Industrials E-K	
42	Br Aerospace (as)	Motors, Aircraft	
43	Calsonic	Transport	
44	Timex Newspapers Ltd	Daily Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

Kenneth Kirkman, of Pinner, London, won yesterday's £4,000 Portfolio Platinum prize.

BRITISH FUNDS

High Low Company Price Change % P/E

SHORTS (Under Five Years)				
Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1000	1000	0	0	0
1001	1001	0	0	0
1002	1002	0	0	0
1003	1003	0	0	0
1004	1004	0	0	0
1005	1005	0	0	0
1006	1006	0	0	0
1007	1007	0	0	0
1008	1008	0	0	0
1009	1009	0	0	0
1010	1010	0	0	0
1011	1011	0	0	0
1012	1012	0	0	0
1013	1013	0	0	0
1014	1014	0	0	0
1015	1015	0	0	0
1016	1016	0	0	0
1017	1017	0	0	0
1018	1018	0	0	0
1019	1019	0	0	0
1020	1020	0	0	0
1021	1021	0	0	0
1022	1022	0	0	0
1023	1023	0	0	0
1024	1024	0	0	0
1025	1025	0	0	0
1026	1026	0	0	0
1027	1027	0	0	0
1028	1028	0	0	0
1029	1029	0	0	0
1030	1030	0	0	0
1031	1031	0	0	0
1032	1032	0	0	0
1033	1033	0	0	0
1034	1034	0	0	0
1035	1035	0	0	0
1036	1036	0	0	0
1037	1037	0	0	0
1038	1038	0	0	0
1039	1039	0	0	0
1040	1040	0	0	0
1041	1041	0	0	0
1042	1042	0	0	0
1043	1043	0	0	0
1044	1044	0	0	0
1045	1045	0	0	0
1046	1046	0	0	0
1047	1047	0	0	0
1048	1048	0	0	0
1049	1049	0	0	0
1050	1050	0	0	0

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS				
Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1051	1051	0	0	0
1052	1052	0	0	0
1053	1053	0	0	0
1054	1054	0	0	0
1055	1055	0	0	0
1056	1056	0	0	0
1057	1057	0	0	0
1058	1058	0	0	0
1059	1059	0	0	0
1060	1060	0	0	0
1061	1061	0	0	0
1062	1062	0	0	0
1063	1063	0	0	0
1064	1064	0	0	0
1065	1065	0	0	0
1066	1066	0	0	0
1067	1067	0	0	0
1068	1068	0	0	0
1069	1069	0	0	0
1070	1070	0	0	0
1071	1071	0	0	0
1072	1072	0	0	0
1073	1073	0	0	0
1074	1074	0	0	0
1075	1075	0	0	0
1076	1076	0	0	0
1077	1077	0	0	0
1078	1078	0	0	0
1079	1079	0	0	0
1080	1080	0	0	0
1081	1081	0	0	0
1082	1082	0	0	0
1083	1083	0	0	0
1084	1084	0	0	0
1085	1085	0	0	0
1086	1086	0	0	0
1087	1087	0	0	0
1088	1088	0	0	0
1089	1089	0	0	0
1090	1090	0	0	0
1091	1091	0	0	0
1092	1092	0	0	0
1093	1093	0	0	0
1094	1094	0	0	0
1095	1095	0	0	0
1096	1096	0	0	0
1097	1097	0	0	0
1098	1098	0	0	0
1099	1099	0	0	0
1100	1100	0	0	0

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS				
Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1101	1101	0	0	0
1102	1102	0	0	0
1103	1103	0	0	0
1104	1104	0	0	0
1105	1105	0	0	0
1106	1106	0	0	0
1107	1107	0	0	0
1108	1108	0	0	0
1109	1109	0	0	0
1110	1110	0	0	0
1111	1111	0	0	0
1112	1112	0	0	0
1113	1113	0	0	0
1114	1114	0	0	0
1115	1115	0	0	0
1116	1116	0	0	0
1117	1117	0	0	0
1118	1118	0	0	0
1119	1119	0	0	0
1120	1120	0	0	0
1121	1121	0	0	0
1122	1122	0	0	0
1123	1123	0	0	0
1124	1124	0	0	0
1125	1125	0	0	0
1126	1126	0	0	0
1127	1127	0	0	0
1128	1128	0	0	0
1129	1129	0	0	0
1130	1130	0	0	0
1131	1131	0	0	0
1132	1132	0	0	0
1133	1133	0	0	0
1134	1134	0	0	0
1135	1135	0	0	0
1136	1136	0	0	0
1137	1137	0	0	0
1138	1138	0	0	0
1139	1139	0	0	0
1140	1140	0	0	0
1141	1141	0	0	0
1142	1142	0	0	0
1143	1143	0	0	0
1144	1144	0	0	0
1145	1145	0	0	0
1146	1146	0	0	0
1147	1147	0	0	0
1148	1148	0	0	0
1149	1149	0	0	0
1150	1150	0	0	0

UNDATED				
Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1151	1151	0	0	0
1152	1152	0	0	0
1153	1153	0	0	0
1154	1154	0	0	0
1155	1155	0	0	0
1156	1156	0	0	0
1157	1157	0	0	0
1158	1158	0	0	0
1159	1159	0	0	0
1160	1160	0	0	0
1161	1161	0	0	0
1162	1162	0	0	0
1163	1163	0	0	0
1164	1164	0	0	0
1165	1165	0	0	0
1166	1166	0	0	0
1167	1167	0	0	0
1168	1168	0	0	0
1169	1169	0	0	0
1170	1170	0	0	0
1171	1171	0	0	0
1172	1172	0	0	0
1173	1173	0	0	0
1174	1174	0	0	0
1175	1175	0	0	0
1176	1176	0	0	0
1177	1177	0	0	0
1178	1178	0	0	0
1179	1179	0	0	0
1180	1180	0	0	0
1181	1181	0	0	0
1182	1182	0	0	0
1183	1183	0	0	0
1184	1184	0	0	0
1185	1185	0	0	0
1186	1186	0	0	0
1187	1187	0	0	0
1188	1188	0	0	0
1189	1189	0	0	0
1190	1190	0	0	0
1191	1191	0	0	0
1192	1192	0	0	0
1193	1193	0	0	0
1194	1194	0	0	0
1195	1195	0	0	0
1196	1196	0	0	0
1197	1197	0	0	0
1198	1198	0	0	0
1199	1199	0	0	0
1200	1200	0	0	0

110	Trean A.	2%	1992	128%	
103%	Trean B.	2%	1994	118%	
105%	Trean C.	2%	1996	170%	
126%	Trean D.	2%	2007	139	-%
119%	Trean E.	2%	2008	134%	-%
122	Trean F.	2%	2009	138%	-%
113%	Trean G.	2%	2009	125%	-%
117%	Trean H.	2%	2011	128%	-%
97%	Trean I.	2%	2013	107	
105%	Trean J.	2%	2018	116%	-%
102%	Trean K.	2%	2020	110%	-%
86	Trean L.	2%	2024	83	-%

WORLD MARKET INDICES

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

R&D 'gamble' could pay off

From Mr Phillip Sober
Sir, I was interested to note that in the recent OECD annual review research and development expenditure by business has hardly grown in real terms in Britain since 1985, whereas elsewhere in the

The Times published a letter of mine (*Letters*, February 25, 1987) suggesting that if the Chancellor allowed BES companies to invest in research and development projects in fields approved by government, this could be a useful way of finding private money

Clearly investment in such companies would be speculative but, knowing the British public's love of a good gamble, it may well be that this type of scheme could be attractive to higher-rate taxpayers.

Yours faithfully,
PHILLIP SOBER,
104 Langwood Drive, SW1

Missing index link

Sir, The stock market study that Kenneth Fleet's figures in *The Times* (November 24) tell me is rather different to the one he appears to have read. The bottom line surely is that, adjusted for inflation, the FT Actuaries all-share index has gained an average of 3.8 per cent per annum during Margaret Thatcher's 11½ years in Downing Street. If his response to this is gratitude, then mine in turn is amusement.

Yours faithfully,
LLOYD WALTERS,
68 Gloucester Street, SW1.

economic inadequacies, and it may be painful for so many engaged in futile business activity based on those inadequacies and who will now lose their jobs. But it would be far worse to continue the illusion of wealth creation by making cheap capital even cheaper. Nothing could be worse for a capitalist economy.

Yours faithfully,
RODNEY E. B. ATKINSON,
Managing Director

Managing Director,
Public Issue Conferences,
5 Harbour Exchange Square,
E14.

Letters to *The Times Business*
and Finance section can be
sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

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LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Atid Lyons (148)	420 57 52	40 53 52	40 52 52	2 7 16	11 27 42	180 150 150	18 14 14	25 4 4	2 2 2	70 20 20
ASDA (128)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Polly Pouch (150)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Bent (100)	1050 1050 1050	1050 1050 1050	1050 1050 1050	18 14 14	25 4 4	Franklin (100)	300 77 77	300 77 77	300 77 77	300 77 77
Bent Air (148)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Grant (177)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
BP (54)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Grant & Wren (142)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
BP Steel (125)	110 15 15	110 15 15	110 15 15	2 15 15	18 27 42	Harley (225)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
BP Steel (145)	130 43 43	130 43 43	130 43 43	2 15 15	18 27 42	Thames Wtr. (225)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Cash Union (48)	440 40 40	440 40 40	440 40 40	2 15 15	18 27 42	Wm Phipps (225)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Surface Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
OGGI (225)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Surface Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
Overhead (33)	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	2 15 15	18 27 42	Formed Jan	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56	330 56 56
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	480	14	26	37	44	54	Jan	19	37	37	53	78	
J & O ("208)	480	37	97	102	8	16	21	Feb	29	40	55	70	90
	600	52	97	78	30	35	Feb	49	49	63	79	102	
	580	20	45	32	37	55	Jan	65	—	—	—	150	

December 9, 1999 Total: 222354 Pals 12614 Pals 9630 PT-580 Pals 2888 Pals 45

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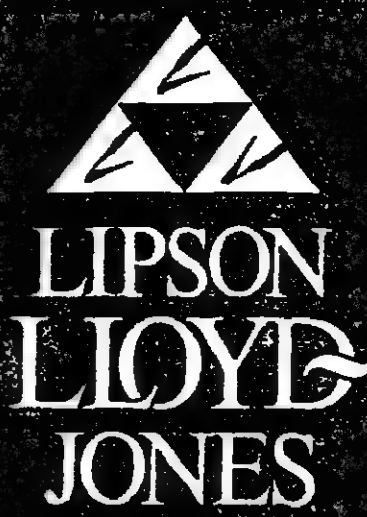
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Aftermath of arson: all journalists should beware of championing the cause of alleged firebugs

Perils of playing with fire

The media should avoid launching crusades, Sir Michael Ogden, QC, says

LEGAL BRIEF

No part of the media would wish its conduct to be responsible for payments to arsonists who have burnt down their business premises to claim on their insurers. Unfortunately, there is no doubt that the conduct of some newspapers and, particularly, broadcasters has had this result.

Several times in recent years some part of the media has taken up the cause of somebody whose insurers have refused to pay up, alleging that he started the fire deliberately. The insured person's story is then published and the insurance company is castigated for refusing to pay. Of course, the insurers' reasons for repudiation are never given because comment would involve alleging arson and giving the reasons, thereby exposing themselves to a libel action.

The result is bad publicity for the insurers. In cases of which I know and which have attracted this type of publicity, insurers have always stood firm and the alleged arsonist has never recovered any money, usually abandoning the litigation once his lawyers have seen the formidable evidence in the insurers' possession.

However, the adverse publicity affects cases involving other insurers, as well as those who have been the victims of the media campaign. Claims managers are instructed by their board or chief executive that, from a commercial point of view, it is better to pay up in cases that could be successfully fought rather than attract adverse

publicity, except in the rare cases in which the evidence is so strong that the police will prosecute and obtain a conviction. I know that this is happening.

I suspect that those in the media who have run the campaigns have not appreciated the true position. Although in proceedings brought by an insured person against insurers the burden on insurers of proving arson is the civil burden of proof, because of the gravity of the accusation the burden is a heavy one.

No insurers will embark on such a course unless they consider they have strong evidence. Quite apart from the desire to protect their reputation, insurers who allege arson are likely to face a claim for costs of profits for breach of contract, and the damages and costs are likely to be considerable if they lose.

One must assume that editors who start these campaigns are not so glib as to think that the insured person's story is necessarily true, but programmes I have watched and listened to and articles I have read in cases in which I have been concerned have usually been inaccurate. What may not be realised is the great care taken before insurers repudi-

ate on the ground of arson. Loss adjusters will have been instructed, as a matter of course, and it is they who will first have raised the possibility of arson, usually as a result of what they have been told by police officers and firemen. Forensic scientists experienced in fire cases will then be instructed. Only if they report that the evidence shows, not merely arson, but arson by the insured, will insurers consider repudiation on that account.

Because motive is extremely important, loss adjusters or accountants will report on the financial situation of the insured company or firm. Insurers will instruct solicitors, who will collate all this and, when all the reports are obtained, counsel will be instructed to advise insurers. Nobody will advise insurers to fight unless the evidence is very strong.

Anybody who contemplates starting a crusade against insurers in these cases should therefore assume that, whatever the evidence, it is almost certain that the evidence that he committed arson is substantial.

Why does the editor or programme-maker who makes an

attack on insurers have the arrogance to think he can judge the assured's innocence without knowing any of the evidence in the insurers' possession?

It seems to me that to run a campaign of this kind comes close to contempt of court. Why should insurers that have made it plain to the assured that the claim will be contested in court on the basis that the assured has committed a serious crime be harassed and castigated to induce payment to the alleged criminal?

The cost of shoplifting to a shopkeeper is as much as overhead as his rent and is reflected in the prices the public have to pay for goods. So, too, with insurance. The larger the sums paid out in claims, the higher the premiums for everybody.

Insurers believe the cost of losses from arson is now approaching £500 million a year in direct damage alone, that is, excluding such claims as loss of profits. Most arson fires are associated with vandalism and theft but arson committed for the purpose of fraudulent claims on insurers constitutes a significant part of the total.

What the media campaigns have achieved is increased payments to arsonists, which are reflected in higher premiums all round, and it is scant satisfaction that the includes higher premiums for those who have run such campaigns.

● The author is a practising barrister.

Court of Appeal

Immigrant's innocent false statement

Regina v Immigration Appeal Tribunal, Ex parte Akhtar
Before Lord Justice Mustill, Lord Justice Staughton and Lord Justice McCowan
[Judgment November 28]

False representations innocently employed to ignore the true situation to obtain entry clearance into the United Kingdom entitled an immigration officer to refuse leave to enter under paragraph 13 of the Immigration Rules 1983 (HC 169). The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the applicant, Tahzeem Akhtar, from the refusal by Mr Justice Nolan on July 6, 1990 to grant leave to move for judicial review of the Immigration Appeal Tribunal's rejection of her appeal from an adjudicator's refusal of leave to enter.

The applicant applied for and was granted in Islamabad entry clearance to join her husband also her sponsor, whom she had

married the previous year. She arrived at Heathrow on June 11, 1989 and was refused leave to enter on the ground that in ignorance of the true situation she had falsely represented to the visa officer that her marriage to her sponsor had not taken place before but had not at the time of the application disclosed that to the applicant.

Paragraph 13 of the 1983 Rules provided that a passport holder who held an entry clearance certificate which was duly issued to him and was still current was not to be refused leave to enter unless the immigration officer was satisfied that "(a) whether or not to the holder's knowledge false representations were employed or material facts were not disclosed, either in writing or orally, for the purpose of obtaining the clearance."

Mr Michael Shrimpton for the applicant; the tribunal did not appear.

LORD JUSTICE MCCOWAN said that Mr Shrimpton's case was that for paragraph 13(a) to apply, the Secretary of State for the Home Department had to establish fraud by the applicant. But nowhere did the word "fraud" appear in paragraph 13. Indeed there could not possibly be any question of the need to establish fraud because of the words "whether or not to the holder's knowledge".

What had to be shown was that the representation was false in the sense of not being accurate and that such representation had been made for the purpose of obtaining the clearance. It clearly had been.

Mr Shrimpton had advanced an alternative argument that the words "false representations" in paragraph 13 should be read as "false material representations". He relied on an unreported decision of the tribunal in the case of *Asad* given on October 15, 1984. But the tribunal had not been

justified in putting the matter in the way that it had in that case. Further, Mr Shrimpton had properly drawn the court's attention to a later and contrary decision of the tribunal in the case of *Eusebio* on September 19, 1986.

There was no justification for any gloss being put on the plain words of paragraph 13: it was stated that false representations had to have been employed for the purpose of obtaining clearance.

It was possible that there might be matters on the relevant facts that could be said to be included not for the purpose of obtaining clearance. It could not possibly be said that in the instant case the representation had not been employed for the purpose of obtaining entry clearance.

Lord Justice Staughton delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Mustill agreed. Solicitors: Russell & Hallmark, Worcester.

Law Report December 4 1990

Arora v Bradford Metropolitan Council

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Russell and Lord Justice Farquharson
[Judgment November 27]

Exemplary damages could be awarded by an industrial tribunal against a local authority found to have unlawfully discriminated on grounds of sex and race against an applicant for a post at a college for which the authority had responsibility.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by Ms Ranjit Arora from the order of the Employment Appeal Tribunal (Mr Justice Wood, Mr J H. Galloway and Mr W. Morris) (The Times July 13, 1989; [1989] ICR 719) reversing an industrial tribunal's decision to award her £1,000 exemplary damages in addition to its compensation award.

Mr Stephen Sedley, QC and Mr Goolam Meeran for the

Court of Appeal

Exemplary damages against councils

applicant, Mr William Birdes for the council.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that the award had been made in proceedings brought by the applicant, a Sikh, alleging that the council had been guilty of direct discrimination against her in a manner contrary to both the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 and the Race Relations Act 1976.

Since 1980 the applicant had been employed at the Bradford and Ilkley College. In 1987 the post of head of department of teaching studies at the college was advertised and she decided to apply for the post. The case was concerned with the way her application was dealt with and the circumstances surrounding her interview for the post.

The industrial tribunal had upheld her complaint that she had been discriminated against. The finding of discrimination was not now the subject of any appeal.

The only issue was whether the industrial tribunal was entitled on the facts of the case to make an award of exemplary damages in addition to an award of damages by way of compensation.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal had held that awards of exemplary damages in relation to acts of local government were confined to the execution of public powers and where a local authority was exercising its powers to select individuals for employment it was not exercising a power within the public domain.

On behalf of the applicant it had been submitted:

1 That, as was conceded by the council, local authorities were liable to pay exemplary damages in appropriate cases in the same way as were organs of central government.

2 That there was no authority for the novel distinction drawn by the Employment Appeal Tribunal between public functions of local authorities and "private" functions.

3 That a local authority was a corporation created by statute and its functions were limited to

the exercise of powers and the performance of duties expressly or impliedly created by legislation.

4 That the functions carried out by a local authority were public functions and there was no room for the concept that in relation to certain of its functions the authority was acting in a private capacity.

5 That it was not to the point that judicial review might not be available in relation to a contract of employment between a local authority and an employee. The award of exemplary damages in tort was based on a different principle.

6 Although there might be cases where actions taken by employees of a local authority could not be regarded as an abuse of public power, in the present case it was to be remembered that the complaint was composed of some principal and a vice-principal of the college as well as a councillor as a representative of the governing body of the college.

On behalf of the council it was submitted that the Employment Appeal Tribunal was fully justified in drawing a distinction between the private actions of the council and functions which could properly be regarded as public functions.

The real question, Mr Birdes submitted, was whether at the material time the authority was exercising a function of a governmental character. Exemplary damages only lay where the person or body was exercising authority or giving directions. It was to be remembered that Lord Devlin had spoken in *Rookes v Barnard* (1964) AC 1129, 1223 of "the arbitrary and outrageous use of executive power".

His Lordship saw the force of the submission put forward on behalf of the council. But in his judgment the distinction drawn by the Employment Appeal Tribunal was unsound.

Exemplary damages were anomalous and it was difficult to find any satisfactory basis for allowing such damages against a small local authority and refusing them against a powerful

Court of Appeal

Exemplary damages against councils

international company.

But the anomaly existed and governmental bodies including local authorities were treated as being in a special category.

His Lordship did not find it possible to accept the suggestion that when the applicant was being interviewed the committee was carrying out some private function of the council.

In *Rookes v Barnard* (supra) Lord Devlin had stated the first category of exemplary damages to be in respect of "oppressive, arbitrary or unconstitutional action by servants of the government". Lord Russell (1972) AC 1027, 1088 had said that extended to local government.

It was not necessary to examine in the present case the exact ambit of Lord Devlin's first category. There might be some cases where a junior officer of a council was carrying out some duty which could not properly be regarded as the exercise of a public function at all.

But in the present case senior employees of the council and a councillor were considering a candidate for a senior position in a college for which the council had responsibility and in respect of which it exercised functions under the education Act.

Cases where exemplary damages were justified would be rare, probably very rare. Before awarding such damages the court or tribunal would need to consider whether the conduct which was criticised fell within one of the special categories explained in *Rookes v Barnard* and *Broome v Cassell*.

It would also have to consider whether the award of compensatory damages, including aggravated damages, was not by itself sufficient to punish the defendant for what had been done.

Lord Justice Russell agreed and Lord Justice Farquharson delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Cuff Roberts North Kirk, Liverpool; Mr A. R. Sykes, Bradford.

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Extended limitation period applies to former embassy

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs v Tomlin and Others
Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Farquharson and Lord Justice Russell
[Judgment November 14]

The secretary of state having vested in himself the embassy of a country with which the United Kingdom no longer had diplomatic relations, and having sought to evict squatters from the premises, the extended limitation period of 30 years under section 15(1) of and Schedule 1 to the Limitation Act 1980 was applicable and the squatters could not rely on 12 years' adverse possession.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by Mr David Tomlin from the order of Mr Justice Mantell made on May 4, 1990 ordering him and five others to give up possession of the former Cambodian Embassy at 21 Avenue Road and 26/30 Townsend Road, St John's Wood, London.

On the overthrow of its government in 1975 the embassy staff had closed the building and handed over the keys to the Foreign Office. The British Government had since had no dealings with any authority as the government of Cambodia. Mr Tomlin had entered the premises as a squatter in August 1976 and was later joined by others.

The secretary of state having taken the view that, should the squatters remain in occupation, there was a possibility that the squatters might acquire title by adverse possession, had vested in himself the title to the premises and applied for possession under Order 113 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

Mr Leolin Price, QC and Mr Donald Broach for Mr Tomlin; Mr Guy Sankey and Mr Ian Ashford-Thom for the secretary of state.

1980. Section 15(1) provided: "No action shall be brought by any person to recover any land after the expiration of 12 years from the date on which the right of action accrued."

Paragraph 10 of Part II of Schedule 1 to the Act provided: "Section 15(1)... shall apply to the bringing of an action to recover any land by the Crown... with the substitution for the reference to 12 years of reference to 30 years". The question was whether the secretary of state was entitled to avail himself of the extended limitation period.

Mr Price had argued that the provisions had to be given a purposive construction. The purpose of section 15(1) and paragraph 10 was to protect the bringing of an action to recover any land by the Crown but only to actions for the recovery of Crown lands, so that the reference in section 15(1) to "any land" was to be construed as a reference to "any Crown land". Reliance had been placed on *McGregory and Wade, The Law of Real Property* (5th edition) (1984) p1032.

Mr Price had submitted that the statutory obligation imposed on the secretary of state by section 3 of the Diplomatic

and Consular Premises Act 1987 was to sell the premises and hold the proceeds of sale for the State of Cambodia until it could be paid on the resumption of diplomatic relations.

The function of the secretary of state was thus a purely administrative one and the premises did not come within the category of land where the Crown needed the protection of section 15(1).

His Lordship could not see any justification for restricting the ambit of the statute in the way Mr Price had suggested. So far as section 15(1) and paragraph 10 were concerned, the Act was procedural. If the Act said "any land" his Lordship could not see how any restrictions could be placed upon those words.

While a purposive construction of a statute often helped, it was only applicable where there was some ambiguity in the provisions in question. Here, there was clear enough. The secretary of state was entitled to rely on the extended period of limitation.

Lord Justice Russell delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Neill agreed.

Solicitors: Cohen & Naicker, Treasury Solicitor.

Unfair dismissals

Morgan v Electrolux Ltd

The Employment Appeal Tribunal should not substitute its own decision for that of the industrial tribunal to declare an employee had been unfairly dismissed.

Upon the issue of whether an employer had failed to carry out as much investigation as was reasonable in all the circumstances of the case the appeal tribunal had to remit the case decision unless no industrial tribunal, properly directed, could have come to the conclusion that the employee

had not been unfairly dismissed.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Leggatt) so held in a reserved judgment on November 29 when allowing the appeal of Sandra Morgan against the decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal (Mr Justice Wood, Mr T. S. Batho and Mr S. M. Spring, J.) on October 20, 1989 to allow the appeal of the employers, Electrolux Ltd, against the decision of a Bedford industrial tribunal on April 28, 1988 that the employee had been unfairly dismissed.

Short arm of the law

The Efficiency Commission, the joint body of the legal profession and the Lord Chancellor's department, recently published "good practice" guidelines to improve efficiency in the crown courts. These are welcome, but they do not go far enough, nor will they make any real savings.

If Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, is serious in his intentions to control the cost of legal aid and the courts themselves, he needs to adopt a more radical approach.

There are at least two ways in which substantial savings can be made. First, unnecessary court hearings can be eliminated. Second, court hearings that are unnecessarily long can be shortened.

In the bulk of the cases before the crown court, at least in number, if not in length, the pleas are guilty, if straight-forward crimes are being dealt with, such as the burglary of homes. Sentencing in all criminal cases is based on the concept of a tariff for the type of offence involved, together with adjustments according to the circumstances of the offence and the previous record of the defendant.

This system is clearly understood by lawyers, and in the vast majority of cases the sentence can be predicted with a high degree of accuracy.

Equally, the defendant often

Some crime cases could be dealt with by letter to save costs and time, says Patrick Stevens in a plea for efficiency

has a good idea of the penalty that will be imposed on him and, provided he does not get more than the perceived tariff for that offence, he will not want to appeal. There is no reason in cases such as these for anybody to attend court, except for the defendant to receive his predetermined sentence.

The procedure could be simplified in the following way. After a case had been committed for trial in the crown court, a judge would study the papers in the case and consider a written plea in mitigation from the defendant's solicitors. The judge would then give a formal written notification to the defence of the sentence if there was a plea of guilty.

If the defendant was prepared to accept this, only he would have to attend court for the imposition of the sentence. If the defendant did not accept it, there would be a hearing in the normal way and the judge in the case would not be bound in any way by the sentence previously offered.

To make the system work effectively, the sentences offered would have to include a further slight discount on the standard one-third reduction

for a plea of guilty. Not only would this make many hearings redundant, but it would also induce many defendants to plead guilty and the cost of trials would be reduced.

There need be no element of secrecy being done in secret because the prosecution summary of the case and the defendant's mitigation could be made public as soon as sentence was passed and the judge could add any comments he wished to make at that stage.

In this way the media would be enabled to report on the case with information as they would have if the case had been dealt with in the normal way.

Defendants in the magistrates' courts have been allowed for many years to plead guilty by post in certain classes of case and, provided there are adequate safeguards for the defendant, such as a requirement that he be advised by a solicitor before accepting a sentence, there is no reason in principle why the system cannot be extended to the crown court.

There is also ample scope for reducing costs in contested

cases. Most crown court trials take far longer than necessary. Trials are more speedily and efficiently dealt with in the magistrates' courts than in the crown courts because most magistrates' court work is dealt with by solicitors and nearly all crown court work is conducted by barristers.

The difference in tempo between a busy magistrates' court and a crown court is striking and, in practical terms, this means that barristers in the crown court operate at little more than half the speed of solicitors.

The reason for this is that solicitor advocates have other work to do apart from advocacy and are eager to conclude cases as quickly as possible, whereas barristers are under no such pressure.

Magistrates' court clerks are also intolerant of long-winded advocates and tend to manoeuvre the list so that the quicker advocates are heard first and the slower ones sit and wait, and lose money in the process. No similar sanction exists in the crown court, where judges all too often allow proceedings to drag on at a snail's pace.

The remedy is simple. If the bulk of crown court work was conducted by solicitors, the hearings would be speeded up and justice would be done not only more quickly but also more efficiently and cheaply.

Despite the opposition of the Bar and the judiciary, the



Courts and Legal Services Act now on the statute book allows solicitors to practise in the crown court. It remains to be seen whether the Lord Chancellor will use the act to inject some efficiency into the crown court via reform and

solicitor advocates, or whether he will be hijacked by the vested interests of the Bar into allowing things to remain much as before.

The author is a solicitor with Stevens and Co, a firm in Wrexham, Chwyd.

INNS AND OUTS

Empty seat at lunch

THE prime minister's hasty removal was a blow for the Law Society. Officials at the society's headquarters had been beavering away for 18 months to persuade Margaret Thatcher to lunch with their president and the date had just been fixed — for yesterday. John Major could not keep the date but officials are optimistic about channels of communication with the new prime minister. Judy Foy, the society's parliamentary officer, spent many hours with Mr Major during the bill for the social security reforms and knows him well. The verdict at Chancery Lane is that he is a "good egg". One official said: "Even Ken Livingstone used to praise him for doing more for housing, when on Lambeth council, than ever expected from the Tories."

Divorce call

THE IRISH courts' refusal to recognise divorce creates serious injustice and often absurdity, leaving Ireland isolated as Europe's odd man out. An English solicitor, Margaret Bennett, has written to Mary Robinson, the newly elected Irish president, urging her to introduce divorce in Ireland as soon as possible.

Crown tops

THE Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) emerged well from last week's cabinet office report on the progress of women in the civil service. The CPS, the largest employer of lawyers in Britain, accounts for more than 14 per cent of the higher-grade women in the civil service. Women in the CPS make up 38 per cent of all the 1,117 employees from higher executive officer to grade five. At grade seven, for instance, they account for 43 per cent of all employees, although this falls to 14 per cent at the higher grade six. These figures compare well with the rest of the civil service, where the promotion of women is to be the subject of a campaign by the First Division Association, the union representing higher-grade government staff.

Centres in need

RESEARCH by Lynda Hancock and Geoffrey Cole, of the Central London polytechnic, into the use of volunteer lawyers in law centres and the future for *pro bono* legal services has shown that only a tiny proportion of lawyers undertake such work (1 per cent of the 52,399 solicitors holding practising certificates and the 6,000 barristers practising in 1989). The re-

search shows that despite the small numbers, their contribution has increased the hours during which law centres can open, sometimes offering specialisms they could not otherwise provide. The researchers suggest that if there were concrete benefits, such as enhanced knowledge, improved communication skills and continuing education points available through law centre work, more lawyers might become involved. The legal profession's image could also improve if wealthy firms in private practice could be co-ordinated, perhaps by the Law Society and the Law Centres Federation, into putting something into the law centre movement.

Secret moves

AS the use of information technology in law firms increases rapidly, the risk of unauthorised people accessing files could give firms serious trouble. Any information falling into the wrong hands would be a breach of the duty of confidentiality. The National Computing Centre in Manchester, which is co-ordinating the trade department's information technology security awareness campaign, wants to ensure that smaller law firms are made aware of the risks.

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SCRIVENOR

Pity the poor fraudsman

THERE is not a substantial civil liberties lobby for those accused of committing fraud. Society strives to be scrupulously fair to murderers and rapists, protecting their rights in a variety of ways. By contrast, for the fraudster, all these safeguards have been partly or wholly swept away, and nobody has raised so much as a whisper of protest.

If the lessons of the American experience with the securities and exchange commission, which has been in existence since the Thirties, are anything to go by, nobody will raise an effective protest.

As a jurisprudential concept, the philosophy behind the creation of the legislative structure to deal with fraud is of doubtful validity. Because fraud is so difficult to investigate and prosecute, so the argument goes, it is permissible, desirable and even essential to restrict the civil rights of those accused of it.

The mere difficulty of achieving a legal end, however, should not be a justification for bending the rules. Nobody can doubt that fraud cases

are difficult to investigate and prosecute. Equally, nobody can argue with the finding of Lord Roskill — in his fraud trials committee report of 1986, which led directly to the setting-up of the Serious Fraud Office — that the authorities' impotence was a matter of serious and legitimate public concern. However, the arguments deployed to justify removing rights from somebody facing the prospect of professional ruin must be extremely cogent.

Two of the more intuitive of these arguments should be summarily dismissed. The first is that a fraudsman is intelligent and therefore needs the protection of fewer rights. Our civil rights did not evolve simply to protect the most vulnerable citizen. The philosophy has a more fundamental basis than that, namely, that a man is innocent until proved guilty.

The second is that because a fraudsman has plenty of time and leisure to plan and execute his fraud, and can obfuscate his tracks, the authorities need to be made even with him by having enhanced powers. The notion, however, that a fraudsman leaves a more difficult trail is nonsense. He leaves a paper trail, and often a money trail, a mile long. It may be complicated, but at least it is there for examination, and this must make a fraud case much more amenable to investigation than, say, a child murder with its scanty clues.

The problems of the Serious Fraud Office's victim start at the outset of a fraud investigation. Apart from the barest details, comprising the name of the company and/or persons under investigation, he is not told precisely, or even generally, what is being investigated. Yet he will be ordered,

not by a judge or magistrate, but by the person investigating him, to produce documents and answer questions.

If he fails to co-operate, he will be prosecuted for that refusal and probably jailed. In addition, the Serious Fraud Office will probably be only one of a number of official or quasi-official people investigating him.

There may have been a Department of Trade inspection, during which he will have been forced to answer questions, and his answers will be used against him in any criminal proceedings. The inspector's report will amount to a guilty verdict against him, probably depriving him of his livelihood. Even if the inspector's verdict does not go against him, the Serious Fraud Office can have a second bite at the cherry. The agony of this process of successive investigation

is unjustifiably prolonged. Things do not improve in court. The judicial function of the criminal proceedings is usurped by the Serious Fraud Office director, who has an unfettered and unchallengeable discretion to transfer any fraud case of significant seriousness and complexity to the crown court and to lodge an indictment.

The protection granted to a defendant to set aside this transfer has been interpreted by the courts as a paper tiger, giving them no discretion to stop a case in which there is the vaguest possibility of the jury reaching a guilty verdict.

It is not surprising that these new powers have terrified those who encounter them. Many will rejoice at this, but there are risks that the over-zealous exercise of the powers will produce injustices and that, as a result, they will lose the respect and forfeit the co-operation of those City folk whose support they need.

DAVID KIRK
The author is the partner in charge of the fraud and regulation unit of City law firm Stephenson Harwood.

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If you are thinking of a change and would like to discuss the matter further, send your CV with full details of experience and present salary level under strictly confidential cover to our company's consultant Roger Boyce, Gayton Graham Limited, 94 London Road, Leicester LE2 0QS. Please quote ref RB/500.

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The concept of voluntary work sprang from charitable and leisureed beginnings but recent years have seen a considerable growth in the numbers and variety of people willing to do unpaid work. Many volunteers are aware that there are advantages all round, for themselves as well as for the people or organisation they support.

In the changeable employment market, voluntary experience makes a good impression on potential employers. "Helping" can also involve helping oneself to confidence through volunteering a few hours a week or a few months full-time.

"The trouble with me is that I still do not know exactly what I want to end up doing," says Paul McGilchrist, who works in media resources at a London comprehensive school. Louise Robertson and Paul were employed as publicity officers on short-term contracts, and took on voluntary work to try out new directions. Paul is now a volunteer tutor in adult education. Louise's hours with a hospital radio were enjoyable and, she believes, added to her credibility. She went on to join a production team for a television programme.

Advertisements for voluntary help with fund-raising, publicity, clerical work, research and practical jobs frequently include sentiments such as "cheerfulness and flexibility more important than skills" and "support and training provided".

There are outdoor projects, residential schemes and telephone helplines. The intangible assets gained from working with people, such as listening, noticing, and responding to what needs to be done help to make volunteers convincing at job interviews.

Voluntary work continues to have a high public profile. Last April, the Prince's Trust and the Commission on Citizenship organised a conference, "Young

Help yourself, helping others

Voluntary work can help younger people decide which career to choose, says Bernadine Coverley

Volunteers in the Community, and tomorrow's International Volunteer Day will pay tribute to volunteers by publicising local activities.

If the value to society is obvious, the rights and protection of unpaid workers have to be considered as well. The Volunteer Centre has produced a charter to encourage organisations to cover practical details such as arrangements for insurance and health and safety.

Community Services Volunteers (CSV) is one of the longest-running organisations providing full-time experience in the caring professions. This national scheme, founded in 1962, places 2,000 volunteers a year from its local offices around the country.

As new volunteers appear, CSV expands. The policy is not to refuse any offer of help from anyone aged between 16 and 35, whether ex-offenders, graduates or school-leavers wondering what to do. The only preconditions are a willingness to leave home for a placement lasting from four months to a year, in a different and often contrasting area, and to live on £18.50 per week plus housing and meals.

Lesley O'Brien, aged 17, who is working in a women's refuge, was too young to join the Metropolitan police. At the CSV interview she



One pace forward: Howard Flynn and Stefanie Hodges are fighting crime as community volunteers, helping police in south London

asked about placements that would be an asset in her choice of future employment.

"I have gone along with women when they needed help from the police. It was very revealing and I understand much more about what the police do. I am a better listener too." She will move on to spend the last months of her year as a volunteer working with homeless people.

After failing one A-level, Shabir Aziz, from Sheffield, thought he had no chance of going to college, so he became a volunteer to give himself time to think. He was

placed at a Birmingham community centre, where he works with elderly people and on an innovative bilingual project with Punjabi children. "The best thing is getting feedback from people. I did not expect to enjoy it so much either," she says. He is now applying, with CSV advice, to polytechnics to study social administration.

Not every volunteer has such clear ideas about careers. Hazel Batkin, aged 18, lives near Northampton. She says: "There is nothing but shoe factories and shops and I had loads of jobs, the

longest for two months." She wanted to get away and the local careers office put her in touch with CSV. In London Hazel helps a disabled woman to live independently.

Although CSV is mainly concerned with caring for people, it does have a "green" project for 25 people in Wales, Cymru Conservation Challenge, an imaginative, one-year programme of working with people and the environment in Wales and in Portugal.

Those who prefer outdoor volunteering can join the British

Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV). This organisation, supported by the Countryside Commission, gets more than 60,000 volunteers a year working on conservation in town and country. The variety is endless, including scrub-cutting, coppicing and tree-planting in woodland, restoring ponds, controlling water level and maintaining aquatic plants and dependent creatures in wetlands, and repairing drystone walls, fencing and hedge-laying in fields.

The majority of volunteers get involved out of interest but for

some it is an invaluable opportunity. Those who are willing to volunteer full-time can become voluntary field officers and will receive comprehensive training.

Jane Bevan, from BTCV's head office, says: "Many long-term volunteers are graduates who want to get experience before going into a career in conservation or environmental science. Some centres are vying for volunteers. North Yorkshire may seem more obviously attractive than an inner city, but making the city green can be just as satisfying."

A volunteer field officer is treated as a member of staff and training is allocated according to time of service, covering such practical skills as the use of computers and time management. Ability to get on with people is tested in "leading volunteers" workshops. Field officers must be able to run a friendly, co-operative group of diverse volunteers, from lawyers to miners.

BTCV can help with accommodation and expenses, but the rules governing state benefits need to be checked with the social security and employment departments. Some voluntary organisations provide similar programmes on an employment training basis. Involvement in any voluntary activity puts people in touch with a network of contacts and gives a feel for the grassroots work, a good basis for informed career decisions.

Further information: Volunteer Centre UK, 29 Lower Kings Road, Berkhamsstead, Herts; Natural Break, conservation working holidays programme, local BTCV; Volunteer Field Officer Information, British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, 36 St Mary's Street, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 0U; Community Service Volunteers, 237 Pentonville Road, London N1 9NF. The Voluntary Agencies Directory is available at libraries or from the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), 26 Bedford Square, London WC1 3HU.

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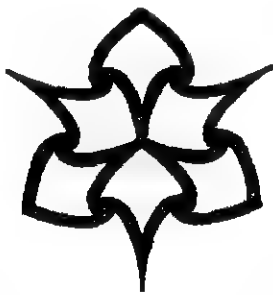
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Further details and an application form (to be returned by Friday 28 December 1990) please contact: Cumbria Tourist Board, Ashleigh, Holly Road, Windermere, Cumbria LA23 2AQ. Tel. Windermere (09662) 4444 Fax: (09662) 4041



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MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT

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Matilda & War Memorial Hospital
41 Mount Kellett Road,

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If you think you have the right qualities to encourage and foster the principles of St Oswald's then apply in writing to the Chairman of the Council.

Informal enquiries, please telephone Mr Geoffrey Dario on (091) 285 0063. Job description and information pack from St Oswald's Hospice, Regent Avenue, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 1EE. Closing date 14.12.90.

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Courses with residential schools cover the following general areas of management: selection skills, managing people, marketing, the competitive environment, managing change and design.

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To obtain the application package for teaching posts at Residential Schools in the Professional Certificate in Management or Professional Diploma programmes, please send your name and address on a postcard to: Residential Schools Tutors Office, SOMIS, Open University, PO Box 82, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AU.

The closing date for applications is 11th January. Equal Opportunity is University Policy

The Open

Curry on course for winter of content

By ALIX RAMSAY

When Jilly Curry's father waved his daughter off to work in the French ski resort of Tignes, he told her she had better get into the British ski team. That was nine years ago and now, aged 28, Curry is not only in the team but is leading them to victory.

On Sunday, she staged an impressive comeback from twentieth place to take the gold medal in the combined freestyle in La Plagne, the first World Cup event of the season.

That gold medal marks the first stage in an important year for Curry as she tries to build on the success of last season. By the time the spring had set in last April she had finished in second place in the World Cup rankings, with one gold and three silver medals to her name.

She promptly followed that by winning the British championship, after taking first place in the moguls and the combined in Morzine. Her aims this season are simple: to top the rankings and take the world championship in Lake Placid in February.

But La Plagne almost proved her downfall. Starting off in the moguls, she missed her first jump. "I messed it up completely," Curry said. "I took off and forgot to make a shape, I just did a straight jump. It came as a shock and it took me a while to recover and realise what I had done."

A good performance in the series brought her back to sixth place. "That brought me right up and it left me with a few places to play with," she said. "In the combined it is never over until the last event, it can always go either way and I pulled up in the ballet."

Freestyle skiing is nothing if not a spectacular sport. Involving tricks, jumps, somersaults, flips and ballet, it is related to Alpine skiing only in that both events take place on the snow. Hurdling down the mountainside with skis aloft and your nose two inches above the piste is not generally regarded as a wise move in

slalom. In freestyle you get points for it.

The sport is split into three disciplines: ballet, a two-minute routine set to music, ariels, a single spectacular somersault from a specially prepared jump, and the moguls, a 250-metre descent over a bumpy course including two upright jumps. Curry specialises in all three sections and has won most of her medals in the combined event.

When Curry saw freestyle skiing it was love at first sight. By 1983, she was in the British team. But the one big problem facing any British skier is the lack of snow at home. As a result, Curry rarely sees her London flat, spending the four months of the season living out of a suitcase while she follows the circuit. The rest of her time is spent at training camps all over Europe. What little time off she does have is spent temping in London to pay the bills.

She admitted: "It's a nomadic and hectic life. Even in the summer I only have the odd two or three weeks in England. There are times when I think of my car as home." She did, however, manage to find a few free days in September to marry Robin Wallace, the freestyle team coach.

For the 1992 Winter Olympics, only the moguls will be recognised as an official event. By 1994, it is hoped all three disciplines will be accepted. But whatever the event Curry's place in the team looks certain, barring accidents. In nine years of skiing her only injury has been a broken ankle — and that came when she fell over her ski poles in the back garden.

But first things first. There is a gold medal in the World Cup rankings to be won. "I've got to make sure I don't mess up," she said. "I know I can gain places in each of the 14 tournaments, it is just a question of consistency."

When not competing, Curry packs in a frightening training schedule covering everything from weight-training to spring-board diving. "I have to be really powerful all round and aerobically fit," she said.

"Weights and running keep me fit but I also do a lot of trampolining. That helps with special awareness, twists and somersaults. Diving gives me that too. Then I go to dance classes for the ballet routine and any gymnastics and acrobatics training is also helpful. But keeping fit on the tour is a problem. I spend so much time during the day on skis it is hard to find the energy to go out and do ten 100-metre sprints in the evening."

Practising for the ariels is a dangerous business. Leaping 15 metres in the air and putting in a triple somersault with two twists before landing takes careful preparation and that work is done on water jumps. Landing on your head in the water is merely embarrassing — doing it on the snow can be painful.

Despite the danger, the ariels are one of Curry's favourite sections. "It is hard to find anything that gives you such a buzz," she said. "It only takes about ten seconds, start to finish, but the build-up is tremendous. All morning the anticipation and concentration take over, then once it is done there is huge sigh of relief."

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When not competing, Curry packs in a frightening training schedule covering everything from weight-training to spring-board diving. "I have to be really powerful all round and aerobically fit," she said.

"Weights and running keep me fit but I also do a lot of trampolining. That helps with special awareness, twists and somersaults. Diving gives me that too. Then I go to dance classes for the ballet routine and any gymnastics and acrobatics training is also helpful. But keeping fit on the tour is a problem. I spend so much time during the day on skis it is hard to find the energy to go out and do ten 100-metre sprints in the evening."

Practising for the ariels is a dangerous business. Leaping 15 metres in the air and putting in a triple somersault with two twists before landing takes careful preparation and that work is done on water jumps. Landing on your head in the water is merely embarrassing — doing it on the snow can be painful.

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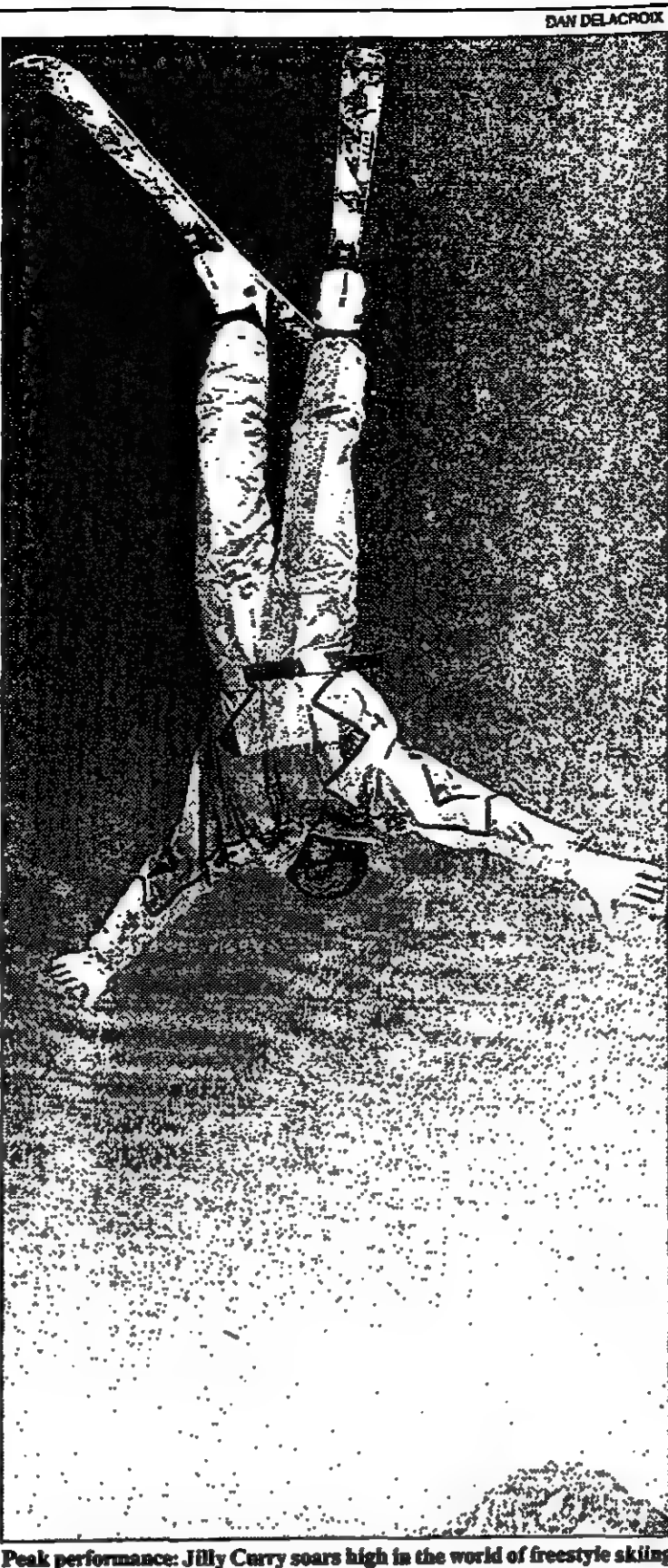
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Peak performance: Jilly Curry soars high in the world of freestyle skiing

SNOKER

Hendry's courage shines through in UK final classic

By STEVE ACTON

WHO can stop Stephen Hendry? That question has assumed a burning importance since the man who stops him can expect to receive the acclaim of his peers.

Not that Hendry is unpopular, far from it. It is just that his recovery from 15-14 down to beat Steve Davis in the 31st and final frame of the StormSeal United Kingdom championship confirmed that his courage, if it needed proving, is as great as his ability. He is terrifically good.

This final was a classic. Not perhaps the best there has been but close. Davis, for so long a pale shadow of his former self, reassured himself as the only player capable of giving Hendry a match over a long distance.

Hendry has now triumphed in five successive world ranking tournaments, including last season's world championship and 31 successive matches.

Davis once described a grand slam of all the eight ranking titles in a season as "snooker's possible dream". The closest he got was three in a row. Hendry has now won four this season and is therefore halfway there.

Perhaps the only man who can beat him this season is Hendry himself.

"Don't worry, I won't burn out, I'm enjoying it all far too much for that and that's the most important thing," Hendry said. "When the day comes that I get out of bed thinking 'oh no, not another tournament', I'll give up. But the way I'm feeling now that day is an awfully long way off."

And the grand slam? "To be honest, I don't even think about records. All I'm interested in is

winning titles," Hendry added. "I'll have won every event there is to win come the world championship then I might start thinking about it — but not until then."

Defeat was cruel on Davis. He has made great strides in recovering both form and confidence even since losing 9-1 to Hendry in the Dubai classic just over three weeks ago and the subsequent triumph during the UK, he convinced himself that he is capable once more of competing at the very highest level.

Hendry led Davis by 6-1 in the first session on Saturday and that he could not sustain such form was due to Davis's resistance, a rear-guard action at first and then, from 11-7 down on Sunday, a charge.

At 15-14, Davis led for the only time in the match but Hendry's clearance of 57 from 49-0 down in the thirtieth frame will live long in the memory. That effort and the subsequent 98 to win the match he described as "the best two breaks of my career. I've never felt such pressure before and I never expect to again."

Hendry is delighted that Davis has pulled himself together and said: "We need to keep meeting in matches like that, and keep chasing each other if we are going to keep improving." Improving? Hendry said: "When the day comes that I get out of bed thinking 'oh no, not another tournament', I'll give up. But the way I'm feeling now that day is an awfully long way off."

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AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Chicago wrap up divisional prize

By ROBERT KIRLEY

NEAL Anderson, renowned for his running, caught a 50-yard pass with four minutes left in overtime to give the Chicago Bears a 23-17 win over the Detroit Lions and a divisional championship in the National Football League.

Kevin Butler had kicked a 19-yard field goal to level the scores at 17-17 with 33 left in regulation. Chicago won the coin toss for extra time but chose to play with the strong wind at their backs and kick to the Lions.

The decision looked disastrous when the Lions drove to the Chicago 17-yard line, but Eddie Murray missed a 35-yard field-goal attempt. The Bears, who played dumsily last year, won their sixth National Football Conference Central title in seven seasons.

Buffalo took a 24-0 lead over Philadelphia then held on for a 30-23 win. Jim Kelly directed a no-huddle attack that produced four scores in the first quarter, including three touchdowns. Philadelphia rallied by scoring 23 consecutive points, including a 95-yard scoring drive from Randall Cunningham to Eric Burman.

Kelly's touchdown passes included a 63-yard to James Lofton, who caught five passes for 174 yards to move into third place on the league's career receiving list.

Cleveland beat Pittsburgh for the second time in three weeks to shed one fellow divisional leader and took sole possession of first place when Houston later lost at Seattle. Norm Johnson, of Seattle, provided a 13-10 win in overtime when he kicked a 42-yard field goal against the Oilers, marking the fourth consecutive time in which a Seattle game has been decided on the last play.

Bo Jackson rushed for 117 yards and two touchdowns, including a 62-yard run for the decisive score, and Scott Davis blocked a late field-goal attempt in the Los Angeles Raiders' 23-20 win over Denver. Jackson, who carried the ball only 13

times, also scored on an 11-yard scamper.

Earnest Byner rushed for 157 yards and scored three touchdowns against the league-leading defence to give Washington a 42-20 win over Miami.

Rich Cannon completed 11 of 21 passes for 149 yards and connected with Anthony Carter for a 56-yard score in a 17-point third quarter as Minnesota beat Green Bay 23-7.

Jim Everett fired four touchdowns passes and Cleveland, Gary added his league-leading fourteenth touchdown as the Los Angeles Rams beat Cleveland 38-23. Cleveland lost their seventh game in a row.

Final scores: Buffalo 30, Philadelphia 23; Detroit 17, Chicago 23; Houston Oilers 10, Seattle Seahawks 13; Los Angeles Raiders 23, Denver Broncos 20; Pittsburgh Steelers 16, Cleveland Browns 10; Tampa Bay Buccaneers 16, New Orleans Saints 12; Dallas Cowboys 17, San Diego Chargers 10; Minnesota Vikings 21, Green Bay Packers 17; New York Jets 16, New England Patriots 10; Kansas City Chiefs 16, San Francisco 49ers 10; Cincinnati Bengals 16, Cincinnati Bengals 10; New York Giants 16, New York Giants 10; Washington Redskins 42, Miami Dolphins 20; Los Angeles Rams 38, Cleveland Browns 23; Green Bay Packers 7, Minnesota Vikings 21; Houston Oilers 10, Seattle Seahawks 13; Dallas Cowboys 17, San Diego Chargers 10; Minnesota Vikings 21, Green Bay Packers 17; New York Jets 16, New England Patriots 10; Kansas City Chiefs 16, San Francisco 49ers 10; Cincinnati Bengals 16, Cincinnati Bengals 10; New York Giants 16, New York Giants 10; Washington Redskins 42, Miami Dolphins 20; Los Angeles Rams 38, Cleveland Browns 23; 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Vagador has quality to defy top weight in Fontwell feature

By MANDARIN

VAGADOR can overcome top weight in the Coores Handicap Hurdle at Plumpton this afternoon. Throughout his career he has been regularly pitched against the best, and has generally acquitted himself well without quite establishing a permanent place among the highest rank of hurdlers.

He enjoyed his greatest triumph when landing the Waterford Crystal Supreme Novices' Hurdle at the 1988 Cheltenham festival, his fifth consecutive win that season.

Success has been harder to come by since then and his only subsequent victory was a defeat of Beech Road, the former champion hurdler, over this course and distance last term. That was on his seasonal reappearance which also suggests he is capable of defying the lack of a previous outing.

He has, however, put up some creditable efforts in defeat, including a fifth, beaten just over three lengths, to Beech Road in the 1989 Champion Hurdle, a form of that quality gives him a clear chance, particularly in a course which suits him well.

The in-form Hard As Iron may provide the greatest danger. He was the comfortable winner of a conditional jockeys' contest at Stratford last week, for which he incurs no penalty, but this is a step up in class and he also prefers a left-handed course. Fontwell's figure-of-eight configuration may not be entirely to his liking.

Old Virginia had Wishon some five lengths behind when winning at Windsor last month but will be pressed to confirm the form on 12th works.

Hatham, a 12,000 guinea purchase out of Tom Jones's Newmarket stable, was a winner on the Flat this season and can make a winning debut over hurdles in the Blackheath Novices' Hurdle.

The Artful Rascal, a fair second to Fortunes Wood at Leicester last month when in need of the run, is fancied to get the better of Ashfield Boy in the Greenwicks Novices' Hurdle, while his trainer Josh Gifford can complete a double with course and distance winner Vincenzo in the Wally Coores Handicap Chase.

However, for the asp 1 go to

Newcastle and Farnworth in The Valley Of Fear Novices' Chase. He began the season with a win from the useful Pat's Jester in a good race at Kelso, and was not disgraced when a half-length second to Major Rain, who received 6lb, over the same course next time.

George Moore, his trainer, has made a good start to the season and Farnworth has an excellent opportunity here to regain the winning thread.

I am also keen on the prospects of Steeple Lane in The Final Solution Handicap Hurdle. She ended last jumps season with a game win from Gold Service at Haydock and, fit from the Flat, may still have scope for improvement over hurdles.

Revere has a clear-cut chance of getting off the mark after two creditable seconds in The Hound Of The Baskervilles Novices' Hurdle while Tranquil Waters should take The Sign Of Four Claiming Hurdle.

At Leicester, Decent Man appeals as the best bet on the programme in division one of the Christmas Tree Chase.



Vagador heads the weights for the Coores Handicap Hurdle at Fontwell Park

Ambitious plans for Morley Street after decisive win

MORLEY Street, the winner of the Brokers' Cup Chase at Belmont Park, New York, in October, enjoyed the perfect start over fences in Britain at Worcester yesterday.

The Toby Balding-trained six-year-old never put a foot wrong and outclassed his eight rivals in the Fred Rimell Memorial Novices' Chase.

Jimmy Frost, reaching a career total of 300 including point-to-point wins, was thrilled with Morley Street's performance. "He's well in front of anything I've been privileged to ride," Frost said. "Everything went to plan. I'm sure he'll stay any distance and when he goes up a couple of years you'll really see him jump."

Balding said: "I don't think fences are going to be a problem for him. He runs next at Kempton on Boxing Day. He'll be entered in both novice chases but I think he'll go for the three-mile race."

The ambitious objective for Morley Street, however, is the Scargam Challenge, comprising the Reynoldswood Chase at Ascot, Cheltenham's Sun Alliance Chase and the Mumm Club Chase at Liverpool's Grand National meeting.

It was all three brings a £50,000 bonus on top of the three handsome individual prizes.

the three-cornered international challenge with England second and Scotland third.

Tokov, aged 31, always looked confident of success on the Jingo O'Neill-trained five-year-old and owner Geoffrey Wilson was delighted with Tokov's performance. "The jockey rode my horse particularly well," he said.

Trian Takeover, the 11-4 on favourite, proved a decisive winner of the three-year-old Coores Handicap Chase. Chris Grant partnered the eight-year-old in the second leg of the international event after being drawn to ride him rather than Tassar for his returning trainer Arthur Stephenson.

Richards holds strong hand

CLEVER Folly, the beaten favourite for the Mackeson Gold Cup at Cheltenham last month, is one of three Gordon Richards-trained five-year-olds to accept for the A Fudge Gold Cup Handicap Chase at the same course on Saturday.

Richards could also be represented by Full Strength and Highfirth, who collects a 6lb penalty for winning at Wetherby last Saturday.

At Kelso, Magomed Tokov became the first Soviet jockey to score in Britain when riding Macho Man to victory in the Maxwell Handicap Hurdle. His triumph helped the Soviet Union to win

Cole criticises Jockey Club

PAUL Cole had some harsh words for the Jockey Club when he received the International Horserace Writers and Reporters' luncheon in London yesterday.

"In a democracy the chiefs of racing would find themselves out of office like Margaret Thatcher," he said.

Cole took the title with nine overseas victories yielding more than £1 million in prize money. He was awarded the International Horserace Writers' Award for the year. He was also named as the best jockey in the world by the International Horserace Writers' Association.

Sandown sponsorship features Temple Stakes

SANDOWN Park yesterday announced a three-year sponsorship deal worth £210,000 with the Indian-based UB group of companies. The centrepiece of the company's corporate racing programme will be the Sandown Temple Stakes, which will carry £50,000 in added prize-money.

The group three Cementone Race, the first of which will take place on May 27 next year, the bonus to the owner of any horse winning more than five races at the Sandown course during the 1990-91 National Hunt season.

present financial climate," said Robert Browne of United Racecourses. "It is gratifying for United Racecourses to be going against the trend with the support of an established international company."

Mr Browne said the bonus to the owner of any horse winning more than five races at the Sandown course during the 1990-91 National Hunt season. Morshed, the clerk of the course at Sandown, said the first jumps meeting of the season takes place next Monday, said: "I'm delighted to be able to provide this incentive for owners and it is hoped that someone will be able to win the bonus."

FONTWELL PARK

Selections

12.45 Sinterfield.
1.15 Hatham.
1.45 Vagador.

Michael Seely's selection: 1.45 VAGADOR (nap).

Going: good to firm (chase course); good (hurdles)

12.45 COOMES CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING CHASE (22,222: 2m 21 110yd) (9 runners)

1 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 2 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 3 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 4 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 5 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 6 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 7 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 8 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 9 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12...

12.55 COOMES SENIOR CITIZENS NOVICES CHASE (22,115: 3m 21 110yd) (6 runners)

1 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 2 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 3 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 4 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 5 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 6 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12...

1.15 BLACKHEATH NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-O: £1,360: 2m 21) (20 runners)

1 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 2 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 3 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 4 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 5 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 6 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 7 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 8 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 9 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 10 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12...

1.45 COOMES SENIOR CITIZENS NOVICES CHASE (22,115: 3m 21 110yd) (6 runners)

1 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 2 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 3 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 4 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 5 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 6 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12...

1.55 COOMES SENIOR CITIZENS NOVICES CHASE (22,115: 3m 21 110yd) (6 runners)

1 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 2 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 3 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 4 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 5 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 6 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12...

1.55 COOMES SENIOR CITIZENS NOVICES CHASE (22,115: 3m 21 110yd) (6 runners)

1 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 2 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 3 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 4 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 5 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 6 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12...

NEWCASTLE

Selections

1.00 FARNWORTH (nap).
1.30 Revere.
2.00 Tranquil Waters.

Michael Seely's selection: 1.30 Revere.

Going: good (good to firm in places)

1.0 THE VALLEY OF FEAR NOVICES CHASE (22,112: 3m) (10 runners)

1 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 2 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 3 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 4 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 5 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 6 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 7 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 8 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 9 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 10 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12...

1.30 THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES NOVICES HURDLE (21,716: 2m) (12 runners)

1 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 2 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 3 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 4 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 5 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 6 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 7 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 8 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 9 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 10 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 11 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 12 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12...

Course specialists

1.45 COOMES HANDICAP HURDLE (22,264: 2m 21) (11 runners)

1 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 2 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 3 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 4 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 5 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 6 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 7 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 8 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 9 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 10 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 11 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12...

1.55 COOMES SENIOR CITIZENS NOVICES CHASE (22,115: 3m 21 110yd) (6 runners)

1 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 2 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 3 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 4 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 5 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 6 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12...

1.55 COOMES SENIOR CITIZENS NOVICES CHASE (22,115: 3m 21 110yd) (6 runners)

1 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 2 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 3 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 4 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 5 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 6 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12...

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1 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 2 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 3 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 4 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 5 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12... 6 145123 MASTER VINCE 15 (J.P. O'Sullivan) (J. P. O'Sullivan) 12-10-12...

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1.55 COOMES SENIOR CITIZENS NOVICES CHASE (22,115: 3m 21

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

The new north stand was granted a safety certificate by Richmond Council yesterday so there will be 57,300 spec-

By DAVID HANDS

Heslop, the Orrell wing, may not have recovered from a bruised hip, and Paul Cusack, also of Orrell, stands by.

Martin Whitcombe, of Sale, and David Pears, of Harlequins, will replace Hynes and Strett respectively, as they did during the game against London, but Simon Langford, of Orrell, is dropped from centre and Graham Childs, of Wasps, added to the squad. The North had hoped to employ Kevin Simms, of Liverpool St Helens, but he pulled out hamstring playing for Lancashire in the Yorkshire. Gerry Ainscough, of Orrell, was injured in the same game.

By RODDY MACKENZIE

By MIKE LAMB

THE Wales swimming international, Mark Jones, of the Institute of Higher Education, broke three of 14 British student shore course championship records set during the weekend at Ipswich.

Jones's three records and gold medals came in the 50 metres butterfly, 100 metres butterfly and 100 metres freestyle.

Trinity and All Saints College, also set three records, but did so from just two events — her 69.23sec for the 100 metres breaststroke and her record-breaking 200 metres in 2:20.96. Her second gold came in the 50 metres.

Results: 50m: J Bradley (Gast) Univ, 55.00; M Jones (Scoughampan) Hm, 51.91; S McInnes (Gast) Univ, 55.07; 100m: M Jones, 1:55.07; 100m: M Jones, 2:06.33; 200m: D Wherran (Gast) Univ, 4:14.16; 400m: J Kelly (Loughborough Univ), 1:37.35; 800m: S T Evans (Middlesex Univ), 3:57.35; 1000m: J Kelly (London Univ), 3:27.35; 1500m: J Kelly (London Univ), 5:07.35; 50m: S W Butler (Gast) Univ, 55.97; 100m: S W Butler (Gast) Univ, 1:56.07; 100m: S W Butler, 2:06.33; 200m: S W Butler, 4:14.16; 400m: M Jones, 3:58.95; 800m: D Wherran (Gast) Univ, 4:14.16; 1000m: S Evans (Middlesex Univ), 3:56.45; 1500m: J Kelly (London Univ), 4:26.45; 4 x 50m: 2:20.96.

tics has become one of the first British clubs to compete in the Soviet Union (Peter Aykroyd writes). Invited to take part in a regional tournament in Yushkar Ole in the Republic of Mari 600 miles east of Moscow, the club won a silver medal in the junior competition while Hillingdon's senior women took a team bronze. Hillingdon are ranked fourth among Britain's women's clubs and travel

By MIKE LAMB

Walker, world champion, which aims to bring together the top 26 players in the world for a 72-hole event at the Tryall Club in Jamaica from December 11 to 23 next year.

The first prize will be \$525,000 (about £270,000) and the last \$50,000. The total purse will be \$2.5 million (about £1,185,000).

A blue riband committee will be formed this month to lay down the precise terms of competition, but the winners of the four major championships will surely be the first choices. It will be for the committee to decide which other tournaments

By JOHN HENNESSY

ICE HOCKEY

Leaders feel W

By NORMAN DE MESQUITA

wins (3-2) over Nottingham Panthers and an away draw with Clevedon. The team remain in fourth. The Bombers' goal tender, Stephen Foster, is one to watch for the future.

Humblebirds Seahawk showed that their recent defeat by Bracknell Bees has not affected them. They won the return 10-2, in spite of being without their leading scorers Scott Morrison, who has a knee injury.

The three Johnson brothers more than compensated with six goals and nine assists.

The big surprise in the first division was Clevedon's second win of the season, away to Medway Bears. It was a close

Cornack's World Match Play Championship at Wentworth

aspis' sting

No doubt, L'Archevêque enjoyed scoring 13 goals for Swindon Wildcats against Trafford Metro, but the final scoreline of 23-5 (the second time in three seasons that the Wildcats have topped the 20 goal mark) can only do the sport a disservice.

RESULTS: **Holchester Legends:** Premier division: Carlin Davis 5, Nottingham Panthers 4; 1st Division: 7; **Penrithrough Prizes 5, Ayr Raiders 2;** **Widow Wakers 4, Brierley Bottom 3;** **Clwyd Bombers 6, Gwent 2;** **Durham Wasps 10, Ayr Raiders 1;** **Murrelston Racers 3, Whitley Warriors 1;** **Southern Berons 6, Nottingham Panthers 1;** **Fins division: Basingstoke Beavers 4, Runcorn 1;** **14th Sloagh 1, 15 Glasgow Slains 6;** **Swindon Wildcats 2, Trafford Metro 5;** **Telford Tigers 1, 16th Sloagh 1.**

THE British Cycling Federation (BCF) is proposing that all track racing, including the national championships, could be banned

POOLS FORECAST

Saturday December 8
unless stated

FIRST DIVISION

1 **Villa** v **Man City**
 2 **Cardiff** v **Sheff Wed**
 3 **Everton** v **Coventry**
 4 **Man Utd** v **Leeds**
 5 **Notwich** v **Southampton**
 6 **Sheff Wed** v **Leeds**
 7 **Sheff Utd** v **Derry**
 8 **Notwich** v **Sunderland**
 9 **Sunderland** v **Coventry**

SECOND DIVISION

1 **Barnley** v **Blackburn**
 2 **Blackburn** v **Sheff Wed**
 3 **Sheff Wed** v **Sheff Utd**
 4 **Sheff Utd** v **Sheff Wed**
 5 **Sheff Wed** v **Sheff Utd**
 6 **Sheff Utd** v **Sheff Wed**
 7 **Sheff Wed** v **Sheff Utd**
 8 **Sheff Utd** v **Sheff Wed**
 9 **Sheff Wed** v **Sheff Utd**

THIRD DIVISION

1 **Sheff Wed** v **Sheff Utd**
 2 **Sheff Utd** v **Sheff Wed**
 3 **Sheff Wed** v **Sheff Utd**
 4 **Sheff Utd** v **Sheff Wed**
 5 **Sheff Wed** v **Sheff Utd**
 6 **Sheff Utd** v **Sheff Wed**
 7 **Sheff Wed** v **Sheff Utd**
 8 **Sheff Utd** v **Sheff Wed**
 9 **Sheff Wed** v **Sheff Utd**

FOURTH DIVISION

1 **Sheff Wed** v **Sheff Utd**
 2 **Sheff Utd** v **Sheff Wed**
 3 **Sheff Wed** v **Sheff Utd**
 4 **Sheff Utd** v **Sheff Wed**
 5 **Sheff Wed** v **Sheff Utd**
 6 **Sheff Utd** v **Sheff Wed**
 7 **Sheff Wed** v **Sheff Utd**
 8 **Sheff Utd** v **Sheff Wed**
 9 **Sheff Wed** v **Sheff Utd**

LEYLAND DAF CUP
PRELIMINARY ROUND

1 **Sheff Wed** v **Sheff Utd**
 2 **Sheff Utd** v **Sheff Wed**
 3 **Sheff Wed** v **Sheff Utd**
 4 **Sheff Utd** v **Sheff Wed**
 5 **Sheff Wed** v **Sheff Utd**
 6 **Sheff Utd** v **Sheff Wed**
 7 **Sheff Wed** v **Sheff Utd**
 8 **Sheff Utd** v **Sheff Wed**
 9 **Sheff Wed** v **Sheff Utd**

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE
PREMIER DIVISION

1 **Sheff Wed** v **Sheff Utd**
 2 **Sheff Utd** v **Sheff Wed**
 3 **Sheff Wed** v **Sheff Utd**
 4 **Sheff Utd** v **Sheff Wed**
 5 **Sheff Wed** v **Sheff Utd**
 6 **Sheff Utd** v **Sheff Wed**
 7 **Sheff Wed** v **Sheff Utd**
 8 **Sheff Utd** v **Sheff Wed**
 9 **Sheff Wed** v **Sheff Utd**

VALDIAL LEAGUE
PREMIER DIVISION

1 **Sheff Wed** v **Sheff Utd**
 2 **Sheff Utd** v **Sheff Wed**
 3 **Sheff Wed** v **Sheff Utd**
 4 **Sheff Utd** v **Sheff Wed**
 5 **Sheff Wed** v **Sheff Utd**
 6 **Sheff Utd** v **Sheff Wed**
 7 **Sheff Wed** v **Sheff Utd**
 8 **Sheff Utd** v **Sheff Wed**
 9 **Sheff Wed** v **Sheff Utd**

1 ALCOHOL TRUCK DRIVER	1 155 LEWIS LEAGUE PRESTON OWING	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100
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Not the least bit shirty: Melville has plenty to smile about, surrounded by tee-shirts printed by his company.

By PETER BULLS

He says: "The interest is longer for him, but his young man attention, which I don't handle rugby and interest more. If a boy wants to play for the say 'no thanks', to do here and ment to travel, I want to join a would be prepared."

He smiles at the familiar target for rugby-playing as

By ALAN LORTIMER

look at the present season and the World Cup. We would not be allowed under the present International Board rules to have him in charge of national coaching and to be involved in the worldwide team for matches.

Charters also dismissed the possibility of the SRU offering McGeechan some other "dressed-up job" in order to keep him at Murrayfield. The SRU is not permitted under the present law. At the moment we don't want paid coaching under any guise to become the norm throughout Scotland in what is still an essentially amateur game," Charters said.

Clearly, an immediate solution will have to be found quickly to give McGeechan some financial security for himself and his family, particularly in view of the fact that he is an unpaid leave and that in

to will surely accelerate a corpora-

in principle but many were opposed to the restructuring for the reason that would make it possible.

Smaller leagues were identified as one way of accomplishing competitive balance, feeding among the clubs is to remain in their present form. Objections have been raised against holding cup matches early in September and in April. It was stressed however that the obstacle in the way of change was money.

Hogg also pointed out that April has become more of a festival with representative fixtures and only yesterday announced that Scotland under-19 would visit Wakefield.

Scotland under-19 will also visit Wakefield, again at Australian Schools, Murrayfield on January 19.

By JOHN HENNESSY

THE expanding world of golf in various parts of the world has landed another spectacular carry the necessary clout to be Cormack's World Match Play Championship at Wentworth

The Tryall Club, an idyllic setting for the blues, is the place where the world's best professionals, under the supervision of Peter Townsend, is being lengthened by some 400 yards to 6,800.

Ken Schofield, the executive director of the European Tour, and already nominated as a member of the committee, said yesterday: "This is a wonderful addition to the world golfing calendar. It offers incentive and opportunity."

It remains to be seen whether one of the tournament will restrict the entry heights that Johnnie Walker expect. Mark Mc

NORMAN DE MESQU

The three Johnson brothers scored more than compensated with six goals and nine assists.

The big surprise in the first division was Glasgow Saltsiders' first win of the season, away to Meadow Bears. It was a close-

as in 1991

aspis' sting

No doubt, L.C. Beauséjour enjoyed scoring 13 goals for Swindon Wildcats against Trafford Metroz, but the final scoreline of 23-5 (the second time in three seasons that the Wildcats have topped the 20-goal mark) can only do the sport a disservice.

RESULTS: Molestone Langens: Premier division; Cardiff Devils 5, Nottingham Panthers 6; London Knights 7, 7; Peterborough Pirates 5, Ayr Raiders 1; Wolves Warriors 8, Doncaster Devils 6; Bantams 6, Gainsborough Durham Wasps 13; Ayr Raiders 9, Murrelts Rangers 4; Whitley Warriors 5, Solihull Barons 6; Nottingham Panthers 7, Fins Division: Rushington Beavers 10, Runcorn Raiders 14; Slough Jets 5, Glasgow Gladiators 6; Swindon Wildcats 2, Trafford Metroz 5; Telford Tigers 1, Wolverhampton Wolves 2; Southsiders 10, Bristol Bulls 2; Loughborough Lightning 10, Walsley 1.

Federation proposes :

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

Newcastle, Hull, Carlisle, Rotherham

● RACING 39
● RUGBY UNION 40
● FOOTBALL 41

SPORT

A past master reflecting on the modern game

Barcelona
IF BARCELONA'S no-better-than-average team leads the Spanish side by four points, it does not say too much for Real Madrid, in third place, and the rest. It would have taken more than John Toshack to recapture Real's illustrious past; Ramon Mendoza, Real's president, is probably chasing shadows in searching for a new manager.

On Sunday, I watched Barcelona, admittedly without four important players, make heavy work of defeating Real Mallorca 2-1. Afterwards, I talked with Johan Cruyff, now in his third season as "Mister", as the Spanish call their coaches. I wanted to know his view of the latest Fifa newsletter editorial, which studiously avoids reality, negative football. Sepp Blatter, the general secretary, suggests, is entirely the responsibility of coaches.

Well, partially, perhaps, but what about Fifa's failure to oblige referees to implement existing laws in favour of creative teams? Cruyff, who was the mainspring

DAVID MILLER

of three of the most positive and innovative of teams in the early 70s, Ajax, Barcelona and the Netherlands, pulls no punches.

It goes way beyond coaches, he says. There are three reasons, in his opinion, for the decline in appeal: the comparatively low technical level of skill; the blinding of players, from the youth stage, with tactics; and the tolerance by referees of negative play that amounts to ungentlemanly conduct.

"Ball control and passing is nowadays so often limited that possession of the ball can sometimes be a disadvantage," Cruyff said. "So much of the game is therefore a fight with muscle and fitness instead of with skill. We have to concentrate on teaching young players to play with the ball, to stop them playing competitively and to forget about tactics. Coaches don't use wingers simply because there aren't any.

We have full backs playing outside left. It's nonsense."

Cruyff's view of the responsibility of referees is severe, and at the same time novel. In the same way that goalkeepers may not take more than four steps, he believes referees should arbitrarily penalise teams which repeatedly pass back to the goalkeeper or deliberately waste time.

"Changing the laws can be risky," he says. "Because the problem is that changes, for instance with the offside line, are likely to make the game positively even more defensive, as with the reduction of defenders from three to two for offside in 1925. Yet repeated negative play, in my judgment, is a foul, and should be penalised under existing laws. Teams and coaches would soon react to free kicks against them."

Cruyff is not against widening of goals by, say, a metre, as suggested by Fifa, because the all-round competence of goalkeepers is one of the few factors that has

advanced. He would like to see experiments with conditioning the number of players permitted in each half of the field; perhaps, he suggests mischievously, with goalkeeping only being legitimate when there are ten players in the opponents' half. He is obliquely reflecting back to the total football of Ajax and the Netherlands, who regularly attacked with eight or nine men.

One practical step he advocates is that grass pitches should always be slightly watered before kick off, as the Nou Camp pitch is. "Plastic balls, unlike leather, will not run on dry turf," he says. "That is one reason why the World Cup in Italy was so static and without pace."

He is optimistic that Barcelona can hold on to their present lead for one of the club's rare league titles; but he is worried by the run of injuries. One or two is not serious, but four? On Sunday, his team was without Koeman, the sweeper — out for three months — Sergei at centre back and Fener at left back, and Laudrup in attack.



Cruyff: a man of strong opinions

Eusebio and Goicochea scored a goal each a quarter-of-an-hour into each half. Claudio reduced the lead 18 minutes from time and caused a panic, during which Serna, Barcelona's left back, was sent off.

"The difference between now and two years ago is that we are winning even on bad days, like today," Cruyff said. "We're physically much stronger, and so much of the game nowadays is

about strength." It has taken Goicochea two years to mature into a threatening midfielder player since he was signed from Osasuna.

Cruyff would fancy, in the long term, the possibility of being national manager of the Netherlands — for which he was nearly recalled at the last minute, rather than Leo Beenhakker, for the World Cup — but for the moment he prefers the day-to-day action of working with a club. "I like the daily training because I still enjoy playing, even casually," he says. "As national coach, all you do is spend the time watching matches to look at players."

He finds Spanish players difficult to discipline, tactically. "They forget themselves, they revert to their individual mentality," he says. "Italy have collective discipline... going backwards. Germany have it, running a lot, but are often boring. England have their own disciplined style. The fun of the game is its differences."

An all too obvious difference, between the Spanish and the English game, is the extent to which the ball is played along the ground. This may not make the Spanish world cup team any more successful than Graham Taylor's, though it is not without significance that Liverpool's passing game coincides with the longest successful sequence by any club in the world.

What may be stated unarguably is that you cannot score without the ball and that a passing game on the ground substantially increases the possibility of retaining possession compared with the ball played in the air.

It was evident on Sunday the extent to which Barcelona, and to a lesser degree Majorca, kept the ball low. No more than one pass in 20 was hit above waist high. This did not serve to make it an especially exciting game, but there is less of the frenzy and the permanent element of chance that exists in the English game.

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Carling to answer allegations that he took payment

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WILL Carling, the England captain, will meet officials of the Rugby Football Union (RFU) today to answer allegations that he had contravened the amateur regulations of the sport. He said yesterday: "I was paid money after a function. It was not a rugby club and the money went to a charity with which I have become particularly involved."

It was reported on Sunday that the RFU had received a letter, not for the first time, claiming that Carling had accepted money in contravention of the amateur regulations as they existed before the International Rugby Football Board's recent revision.

Carling said yesterday that money he had received for attending a non-rugby function had been passed to a charity and that he would be able to prove it.

"I have spoken to Dudley Wood [the RFU secretary] and I know exactly what it's about," Carling said. "I am amazed it's turned up about 18 months later. The money that came to me was given to a charity and there is a letter to prove it which I will show to the RFU officials."

"I will also be writing to the newspaper concerned to tell them exactly what the score is. If someone had asked me before this came up, there

would have been no story. "I just feel rather sad that people feel they have to have a go all the time. It wears you down after a while. The impression that Will Carling is in rugby to make money is totally wrong. If that was the case I would have accepted one of the offers from rugby league."

"Some people have the idea I have been leading the charge to change the whole game. That started long before I came on the scene. I want to raise the profile of the game, not Will Carling, and do something for the sport as a whole."

Carling, aged 24 and with 20 caps (13 as captain) to his credit, is going through a phase notorious in Australia as the "tall poppy syndrome", meaning he is liable to unfounded criticism because of his success.

His youth (he was still 22 when invited to captain England against Australia in 1988) tends to be overlooked and the fact that he has been able to form his own company, helped by his rugby fame, has attracted sideways glances from those unwilling or unable to understand that the motivational seminars he undertakes is the result of his own studies in psychology and an intelligent application thereof.

He might have been better advised, in a sport with some notoriously old-fashioned traditions, either to reduce the number of modelling engagements he has undertaken or to be more discreet in his public pronouncements, and in respect of the most recent accusation, he would do well to note Andy Ripley's experience of nearly ten years ago.

Many rugby personalities are sent cheques in respect of services they have performed, or time they have given up, which they invariably pass on, as Carling did, to a charity. Ripley, now president of Rosslyn Park, then playing some of his best rugby at No. 8, took part in a televised Superstars series and, for coming third in a world event, won £6,000; if he had come first, the prize would have been £50,000 and Ripley admits he would probably have professionalised himself and accepted it.

However, the cheque was sent direct to the RFU, which then disbursed it, in accordance with Ripley's instructions, to a variety of charities, including its own youth trust. "In my day," Ripley said, "the whole amateur situation was far more clear cut. You either did it, and risked being found out either by the union or the Inland Revenue, or you didn't."

"The problem for Will and people like him is that they don't know where they stand under the present regulations. I feel immensely sorry for him in his position. I just wish people would leave him alone to get on with what he does best, and that's playing rugby."

Slimline Mason bounces back

By BRYAN STILES

GARY Mason, the roly-poly British heavyweight boxing champion, felt unloved and almost unwanted as he left the ring after winning his last two bouts — his public had started to turn against him. Worse still, it was discovered he had a detached retina and it looked as if his career was over.

Yesterday the new, slimline Mason bounced around a gym declaring he was at a new beginning. His eye is fine, he has shed almost three stones in seven weeks at a training camp in Florida and he cannot wait to lay some leather on Lennox Lewis, Britain's latest heavyweight hopeful, who was recently crowned European champion, and who, according to Mickey Duff, Mason's manager, is trying to put off the confrontation.

Weighing in after a strenuous workout in a gym that squats in a down-at-heel back street behind King's Cross station, London, Mason beamed as the scales registered 16st 11½lb — his lightest for five years. When he went into the training camp he was 19st 8lb, the result of the anxiety and bad eating habits brought on by his eye problem. He is on a new diet that rules out red meat.

The unbeaten champion is not promising he will be under 17st, as Duff is insisting, when he steps into the ring for his warm-up contest against James Prichard, of the United States, at the Albert Hall on Wednesday next week, but he is promising a sharper, faster boxer that his public should warm to. Gone will be the champion whose "mental attitude" was "not right, and whose 'heart was not in it'."

"Nine months ago my whole life was in ruins, not just my career," Mason said.

Champion gains new lease of life



An eye to the future: Mason in training for his comeback bout with James Prichard

Time for a bow for those in the wings

By STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

GRAHAM Taylor will today reward the members of the England squad who have been waiting in the wings. Most of the places in the B party, which is to play in Algeria next Tuesday, are expected to be filled by those who have acted as reserves or replacements.

The international offers England's manager a convenient opportunity to examine the merits of players he might soon consider worthy of promotion. Apart from one controversial exception, all of his three senior line-ups have so far been based on the same designs as his predecessor, Bobby Robson.

Taylor could not reasonably start his international managerial career by omitting individuals who were responsible for reaching the semi-final of the World Cup. Even on the one occasion when he felt compelled to bring in an outsider, he turned to one of his old boys from Aston Villa, Gordon Cowan.

Had he been recalled for any purpose other than to reinforce the midfield in the Republic of Ireland, Taylor could justifiably have been criticised for a short-sighted policy. The future of Cowan, who had made only two sporadic appearances for England in the previous seven years, is inevitably limited. He is 32.

Taylor has already indicated that he will not use the occasion in Algeria as a benefit march for similarly aged players who have not received international recognition. The emphasis will instead be on providing experience and continuing the development of comparative youngsters who are already on the edge of contention.

Tony Daley, also of Villa, and Ian Wright, of Crystal Palace, are examples of those who have been chosen for the senior party. Both can expect to be invited to Algeria.

Earl Barrett, the central defender who made such a notable contribution to Oldham Athletic's success last season, has cause for optimism. David Burrows, a versatile member of Liverpool's rearguard, David Barry, the pugnacious Leeds United midfielder, and Matthew Le Tissier, Southampton's talented forward, could also be included.

United States plans, page 41



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Kerly confirms return to international arena

By SYDNEY FRUSKIN

SEAN Kerly left no doubt about his intention to return to international hockey when he confirmed yesterday that he was available for England and Great Britain in the new year.

"I asked to be left out of all international matches after the World Cup at Lahore until

I could sort myself out with a job. Now that I have done that, I am available," he said. His last international appearance was on February 22 at Lahore when, in the play-off for fifth place in the World Cup, England defeated the Soviet Union 1-0.

During his self-enforced absence, Kerly, who had scored eight goals for the Olympic

gold medal-winning team in 1988, missed the BMW tournament in Amsterdam in June and the more recent Champions Trophy in Melbourne, as well as the Four Nations classic at Luton in October.

Bernie Cotton, the England and Great Britain team manager, said yesterday: "Kerly is committed to earning a place in the England team for the

European indoor championship at Birmingham in February, the European [outdoor] Cup in Paris in June and in the Great Britain team for the Champions Trophy tournament in September."

Cotton expressed concern yesterday over the delay by Germany in announcing details for this event. "I shall be trying to get into it wherever it

is held," Kerly added.

Kerly is playing for Europe in the Azlan Shah Inter-Continent tournament in Kuala Lumpur from December 10 to 15, which means he will miss Southgate's postponed Nationwide Anglia Cup third round match on December 15 against East Grinstead. The European team is managed by Roger Self.

Spectators are being led a merry rain dance

Canberra

IT has often been said that simplicity is the essential attraction of one-day cricket. The crowds are drawn because intricate knowledge is not necessary — everyone knows that each team bats for the same number of overs on the same day and that the winner is the one with the most runs at the end.

In Australia, where the limited-overs game is increasingly predominant, the spectator is now being asked to contend with some complex diversions from this elementary script, new rules which may be well reasoned but could still endanger the appeal of instant cricket to those without the time or inclination to graduate as experts.

Anyone who watched the first of this winter's World Series Cup games, in Sydney last Thursday, will be aware of the latest meddling with the basics, though whether they understand it is entirely

ALAN LEE on Australian tinkering with the rules of limited-overs cricket

New Zealand, batting second against Australia, having their innings delayed by the equivalent of four overs yet still having to chase the same target.

It was too much for certain members of the television commentary team and must inevitably have been too much for the majority of the 21,000 crowd. But the umpires, who are responsible for recalculating targets when weather interferes, were strictly correct within the guidelines of an obscure playing condition only applicable in Australia.

In the Australian Cricket Board's rulebook it comes under the heading of "Target Score" and reads: "If, due to suspension of play, the number of overs in the innings of the team batting second has to be

the runs scored by the team batting first from the equivalent number of highest scoring overs, plus one."

This is as clear as mud on first inspection but evidently means that, for instance, if team A has scored 250 in 50 overs and team B is then restricted to 20 overs, their target score will be the sum of the most productive 20 overs enjoyed by team A, which might well be a daunting 150 or so.

What is achieved by this rule is a correction, if not a complete reversal, of the traditional imbalance towards the side batting second in a rain-affected match, and for the captains in the competition it demands a re-think of the acknowledged tendency to win the toss and invite the opposition to bat if there is rain around.

So far as the spectator is concerned, however, it achieves hazy possibilities within an event which, like most off-the-peg entertainment, succeeds because what you see is

World Series Cup

Team	W	L	T	Net	Wkts
Australia	1	0	0	0	4.81
New Zealand	1	0	0	0	4.47
England	1	0	0	0	4.40

RESCHEDULED QUALIFYING MATCHES: November 29: Australia v New Zealand (Sydney); December 1: England v New Zealand (Adelaide); 2: Australia v New Zealand (Adelaide); 7: England v New Zealand (Perth); 8: Australia v New Zealand (Perth); 11: Australia v New Zealand (Melbourne); 12: England v New Zealand (Sydney); 13: England v New Zealand (Brisbane); 14: Australia v England (Brisbane); 15: Australia v New Zealand (Sydney); 16: Australia v England (Melbourne).

FINAL: 12: Sydney, 12: Melbourne, 17: 1st needed; Melbourne.

what you get.

There was confusion, too, during England's opening match, when John Wright, the New Zealand opener, fended a short ball from Devon Malcolm off his chin and was caught at second slip. Wright was half way to the pavilion before being alerted to the fact that the square-leg umpire had signalled no-

ball, not for anything scandalous such as throwing, nor even for having too few fielders inside the circle.

The no-ball was called because, in one-day cricket here, a ball that passes, or would pass, above shoulder height is illegitimate. In England, the regulation is different, relating to head-height, and is also interpreted more loosely.

Effectively, this rules out the bouncer and renders Malcolm, the quickest bowler in any of the three competing teams, less obviously effective. It was just another worry for England yesterday as they arrived in Canberra to violent hailstorms and headed for Capital Hill to meet a prime minister who was still finding time to indulge his passion for cricket, despite the pressure of weightier, global issues.

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US will be... Major Gulf... early... Thatcher defended... Security alert... Galt hope... Job losses... INDEX... D 2... *** **

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